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THE NEW
MUTANTS
THE MUTANTS' LAST HOPE--
--MAGIK, THE TEAMMATE WHO BETRAYED THEM ALL!
CELACOLA

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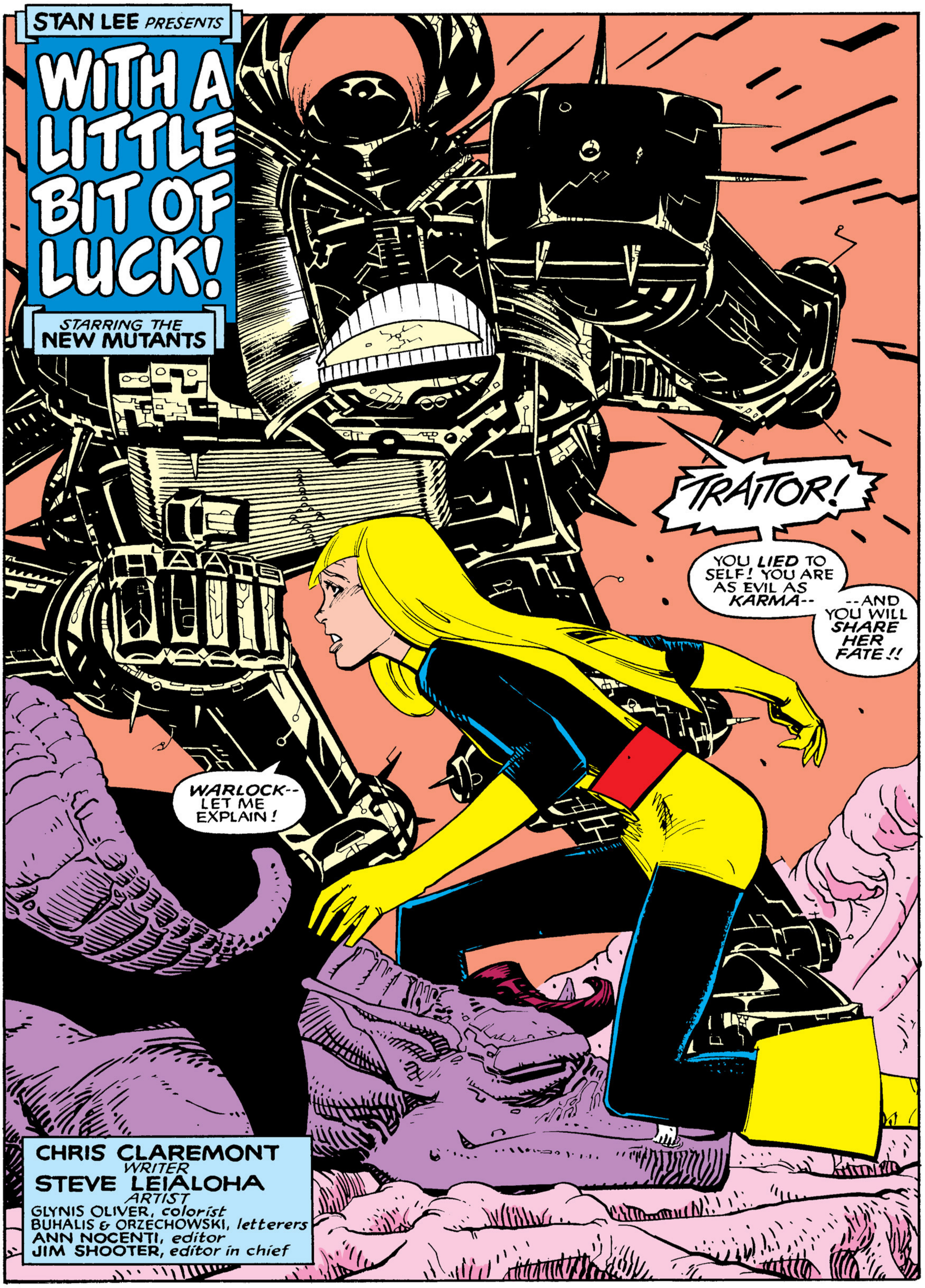
STAN LEE PRESENTS
WITH A LITTLE BIT OF LUCK!
STARRING THE NEW MUTANTS
TRAITOR!
YOU *LIED* TO SELF! YOU ARE AS EVIL AS *KARMA*--
--AND YOU WILL *SHARE HER FATE!!*
WARLOCK-- LET ME EXPLAIN!
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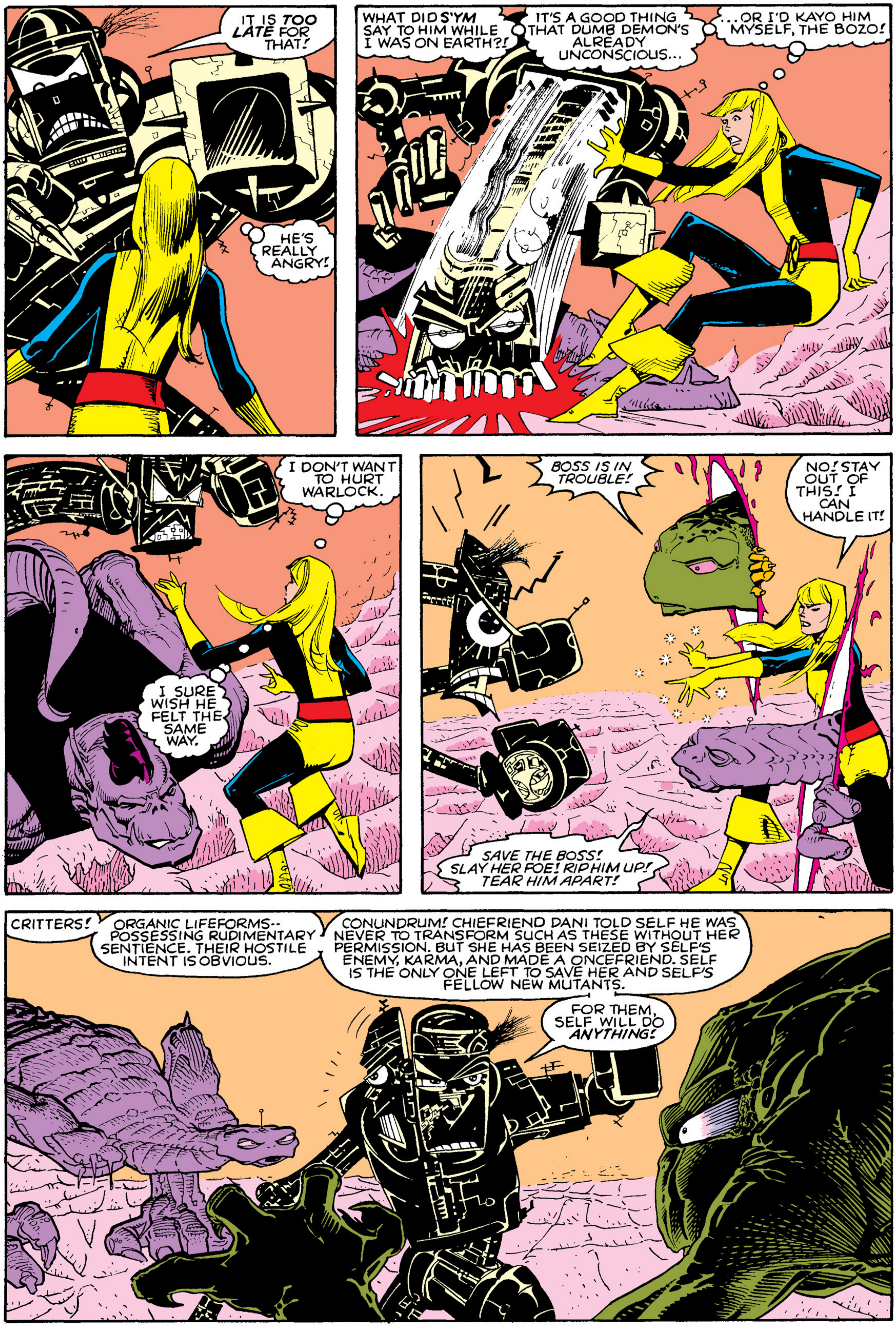
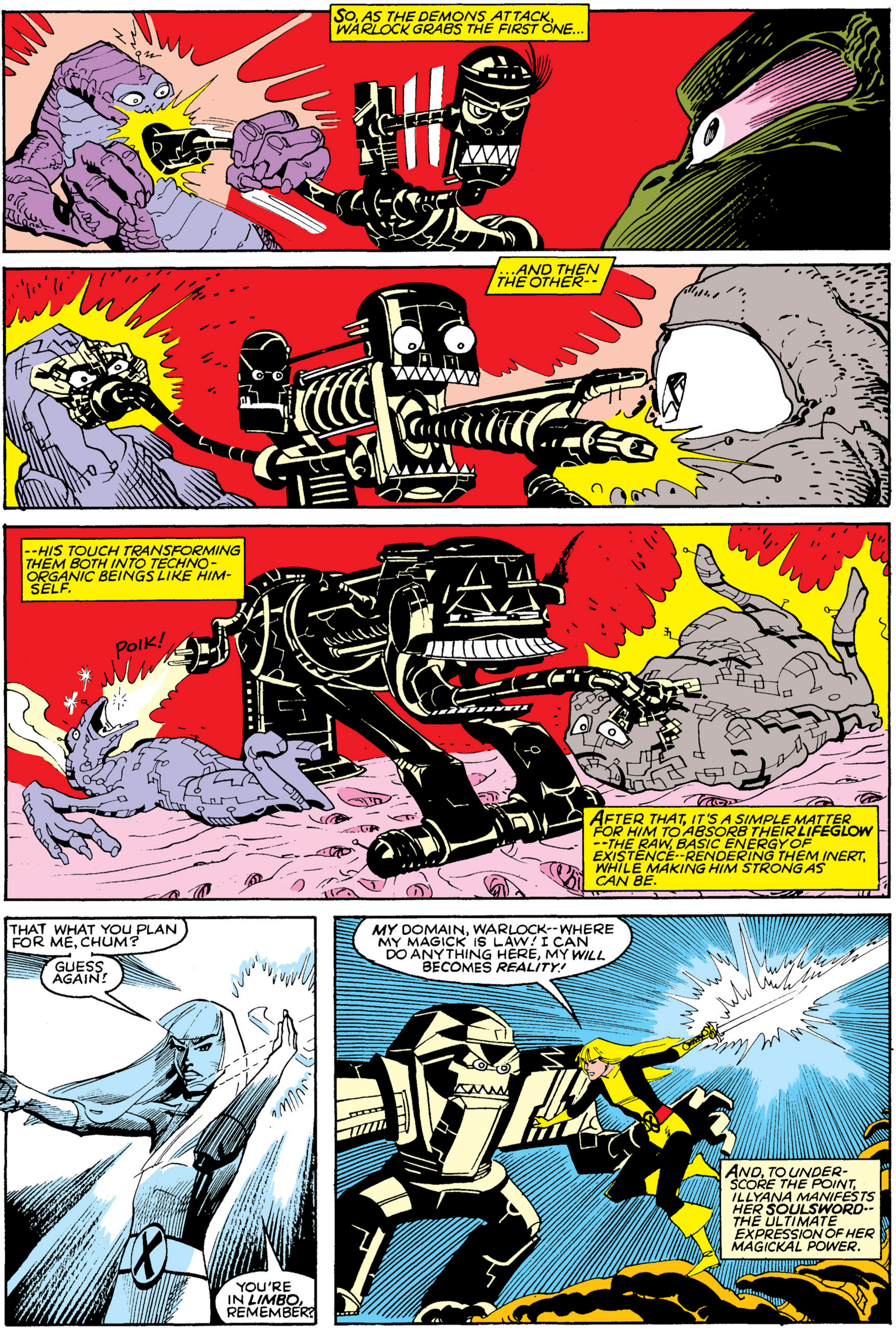
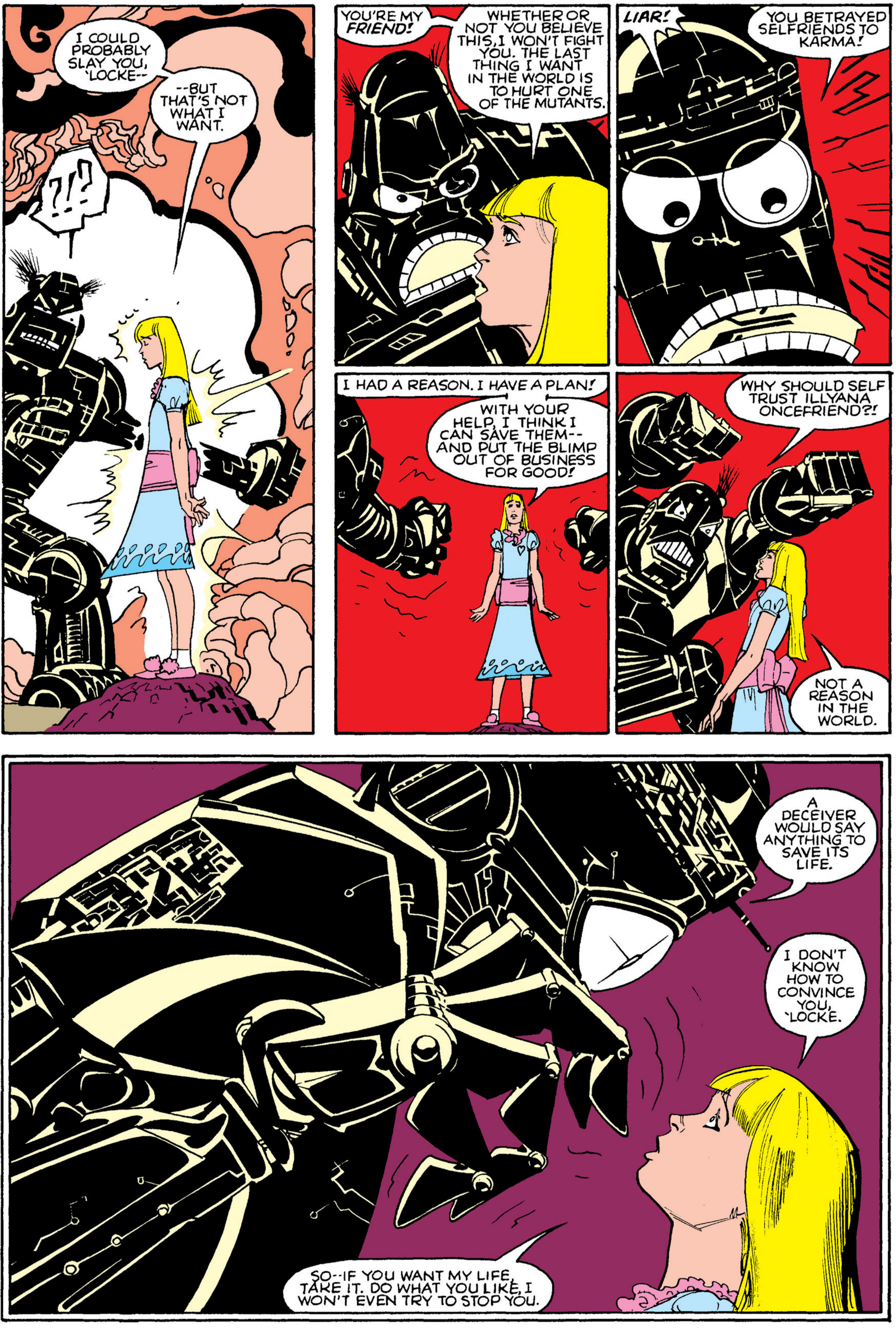
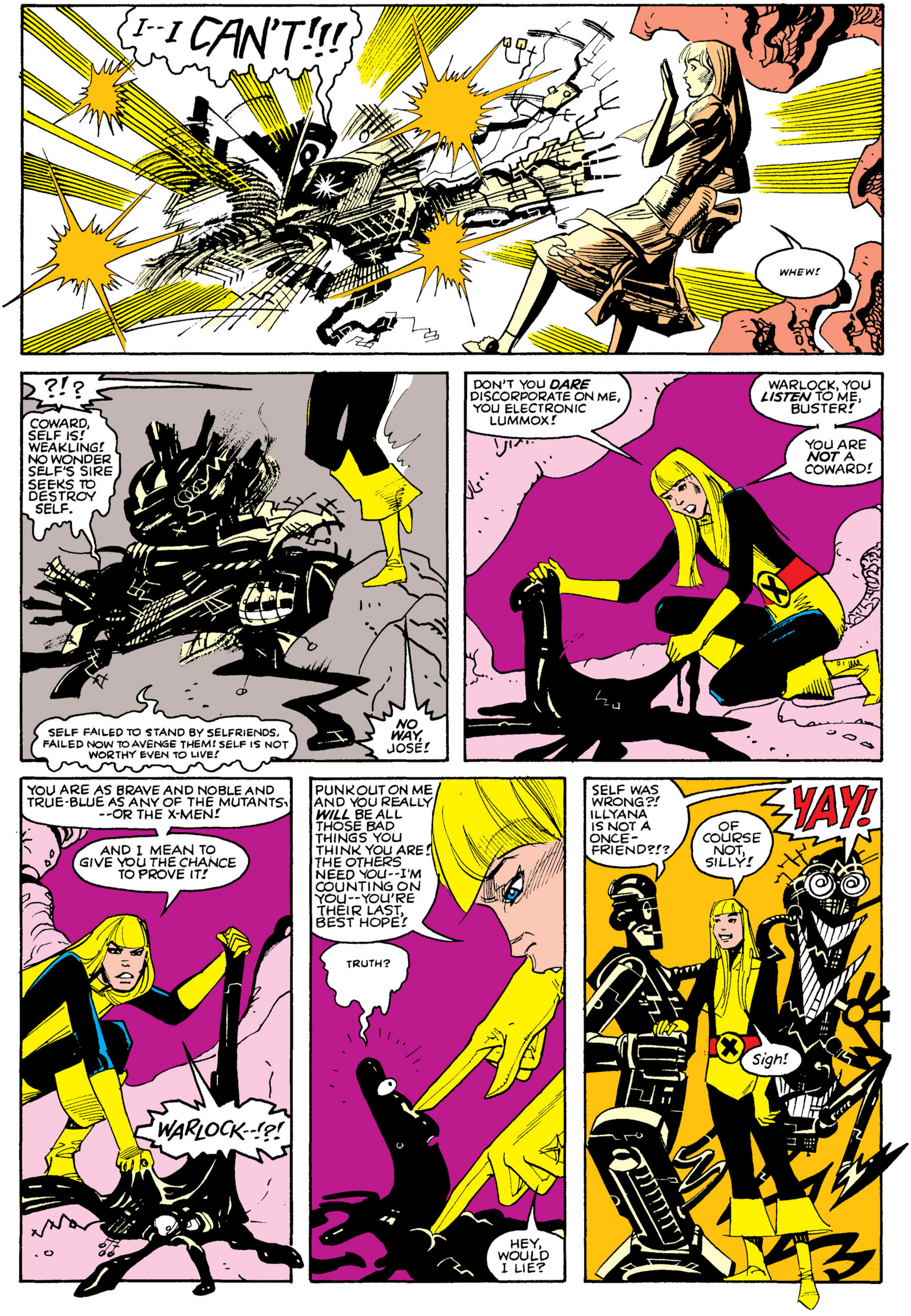
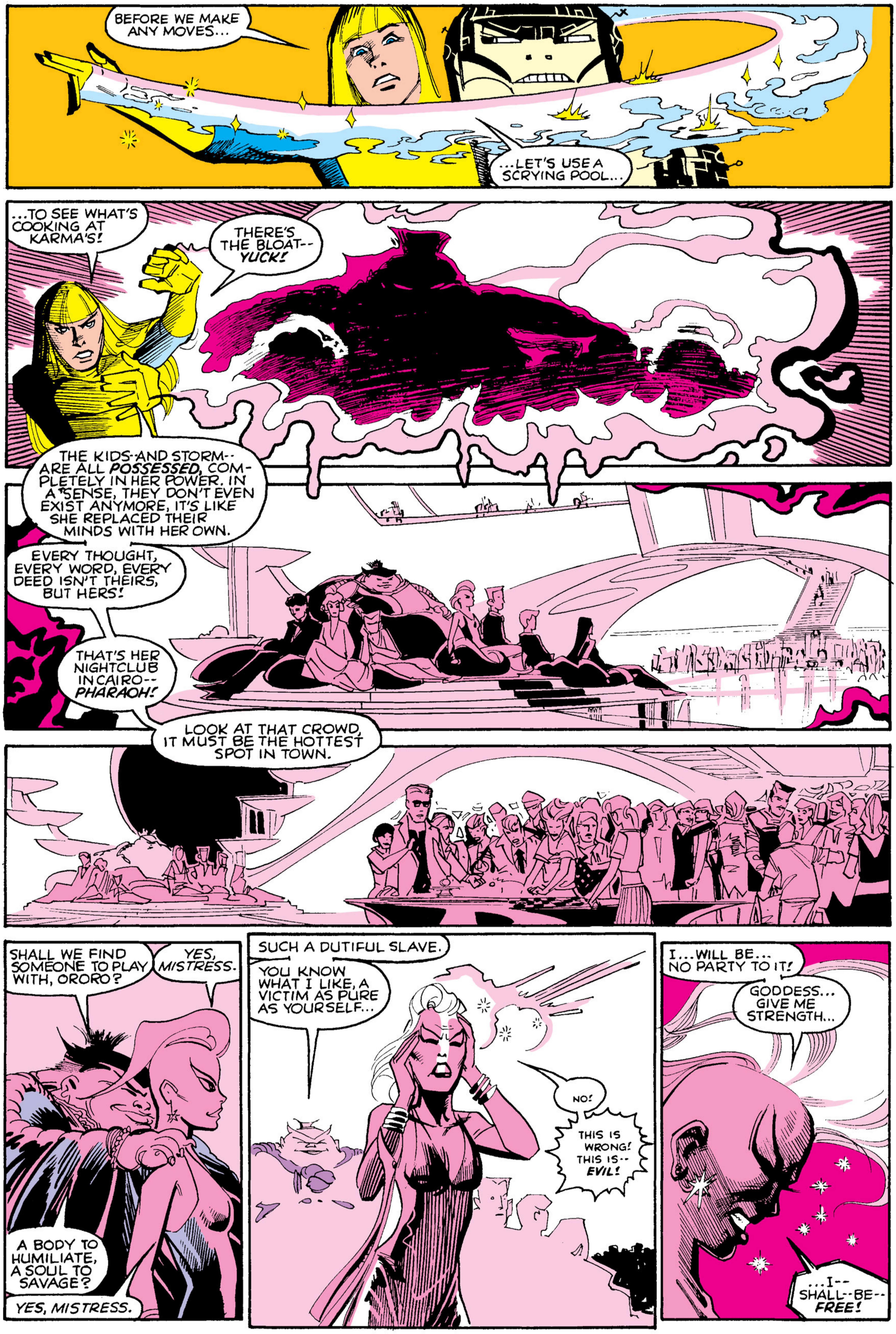
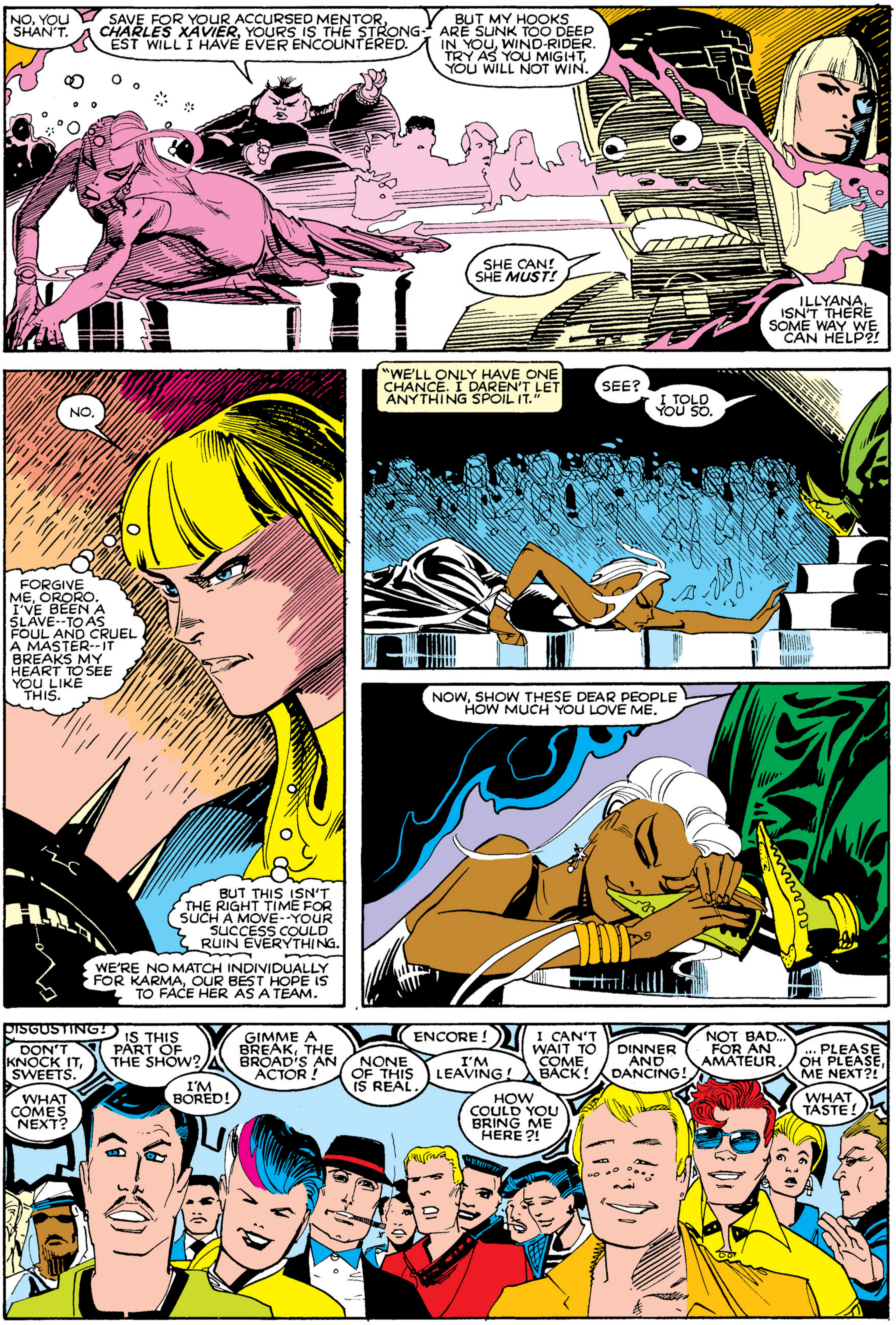

IT IS TOO LATE FOR THAT!
HE'S REALLY ANGRY!
WHAT DID S'YM SAY TO HIM WHILE I WAS ON EARTH?!
IT'S A GOOD THING THAT DUMB DEMON'S ALREADY UNCONSCIOUS...
...OR I'D KAYO HIM MYSELF, THE BOZO!
I DON'T WANT TO HURT WARLOCK.
I SURE WISH HE FELT THE SAME WAY.
BOSS IS IN TROUBLE!
NO! STAY OUT OF THIS! I CAN HANDLE IT!
SAVE THE BOSS! SLAY HER FOE! RIP HIM UP! TEAR HIM APART!
CRITTERS!
ORGANIC LIFEFORMS-- POSSESSING RUDIMENTARY SENTIENCE. THEIR HOSTILE INTENT IS OBVIOUS.
CONUNDRUM! CHIEFRIEND DANI TOLD SELF HE WAS NEVER TO TRANSFORM SUCH AS THESE WITHOUT HER PERMISSION. BUT SHE HAS BEEN SEIZED BY SELF'S ENEMY, KARMA, AND MADE A ONCEFRIEND. SELF IS THE ONLY ONE LEFT TO SAVE HER AND SELF'S FELLOW NEW MUTANTS.
FOR THEM, SELF WILL DO ANYTHING!

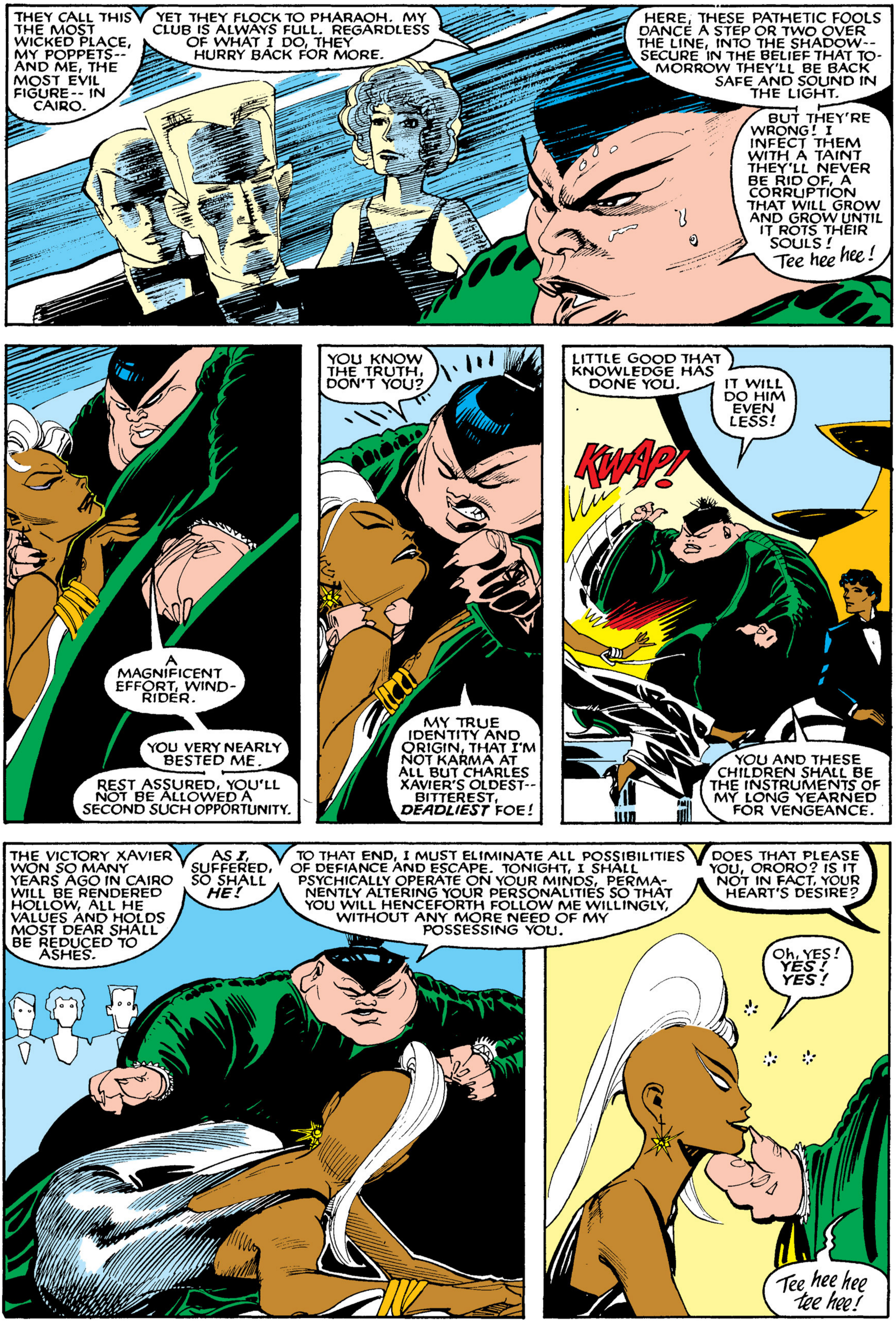

SO, AS THE DEMONS ATTACK, WARLOCK GRABS THE FIRST ONE...
...AND THEN THE OTHER--
--HIS TOUCH TRANSFORMING THEM BOTH INTO TECHNO-ORGANIC BEINGS LIKE HIMSELF.
POIK!
AFTER THAT, IT'S A SIMPLE MATTER FOR HIM TO ABSORB THEIR LIFEGLOW --THE RAW, BASIC ENERGY OF EXISTENCE--RENDERING THEM INERT, WHILE MAKING HIM STRONG AS CAN BE.
THAT WHAT YOU PLAN FOR ME, CHUM?
GUESS AGAIN!
YOU'RE IN LIMBO, REMEMBER?
MY DOMAIN, WARLOCK--WHERE MY MAGICK IS LAW! I CAN DO ANYTHING HERE, MY WILL BECOMES REALITY!
AND, TO UNDERSCORE THE POINT, ILLYANA MANIFESTS HER SOULSWORD-- THE ULTIMATE EXPRESSION OF HER MAGICKAL POWER.

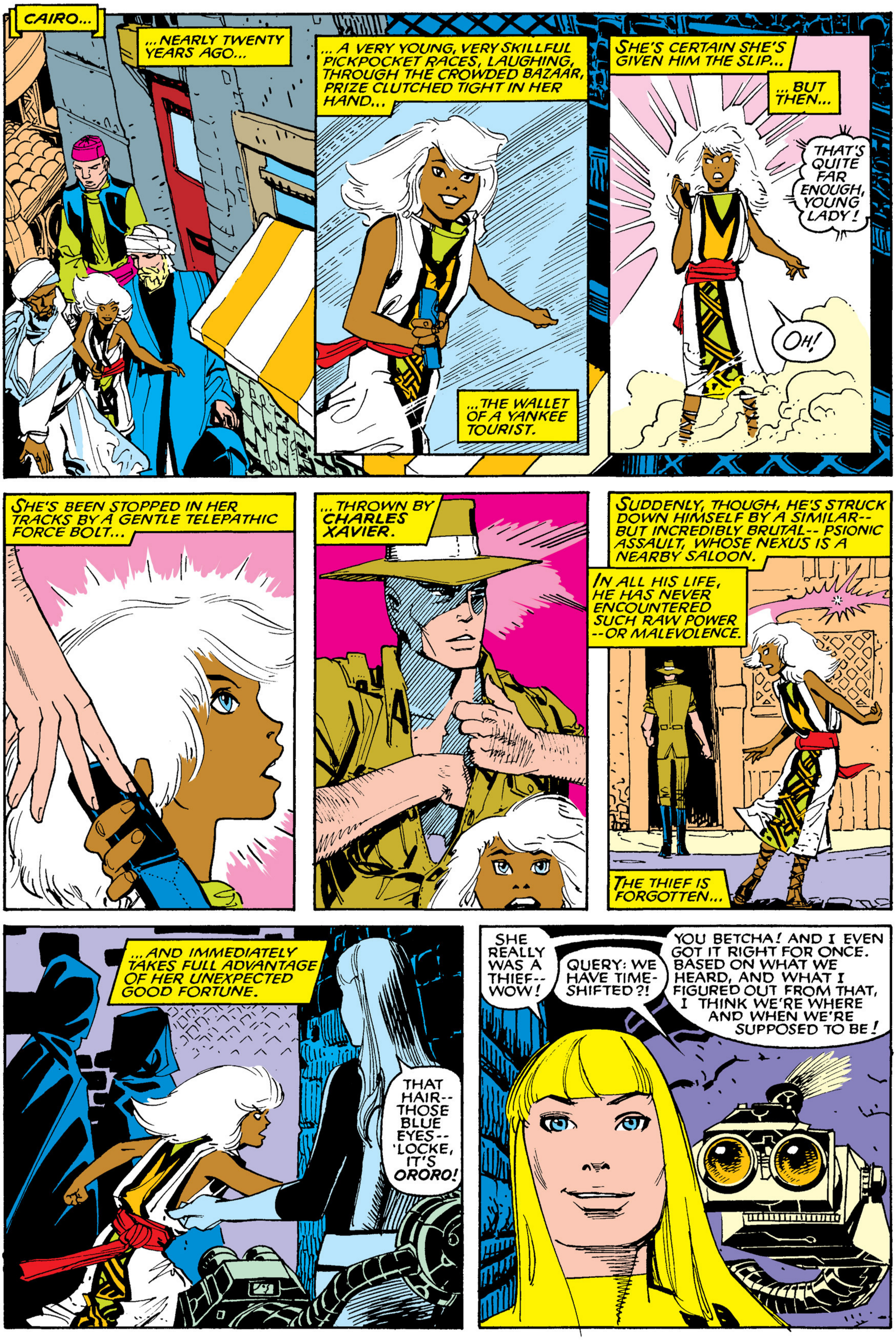

I COULD PROBABLY SLAY YOU, 'LOCKE--
--BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANT.
?!?
YOU'RE MY *FRIEND!*
WHETHER OR NOT YOU BELIEVE THIS, I WON'T FIGHT YOU. THE LAST THING I WANT IN THE WORLD IS TO HURT ONE OF THE MUTANTS.
LIAR!
YOU BETRAYED SELFRIENDS TO KARMA!
I HAD A REASON. I HAVE A PLAN!
WITH YOUR HELP, I THINK I CAN SAVE THEM-- AND PUT THE BLIMP OUT OF BUSINESS FOR GOOD!
WHY SHOULD SELF TRUST ILLYANA ONCEFRIEND?!
NOT A REASON IN THE WORLD.
A DECEIVER WOULD SAY ANYTHING TO SAVE ITS LIFE.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO CONVINCE YOU, 'LOCKE.
SO--IF YOU WANT MY LIFE, TAKE IT. DO WHAT YOU LIKE, I WON'T EVEN TRY TO STOP YOU.

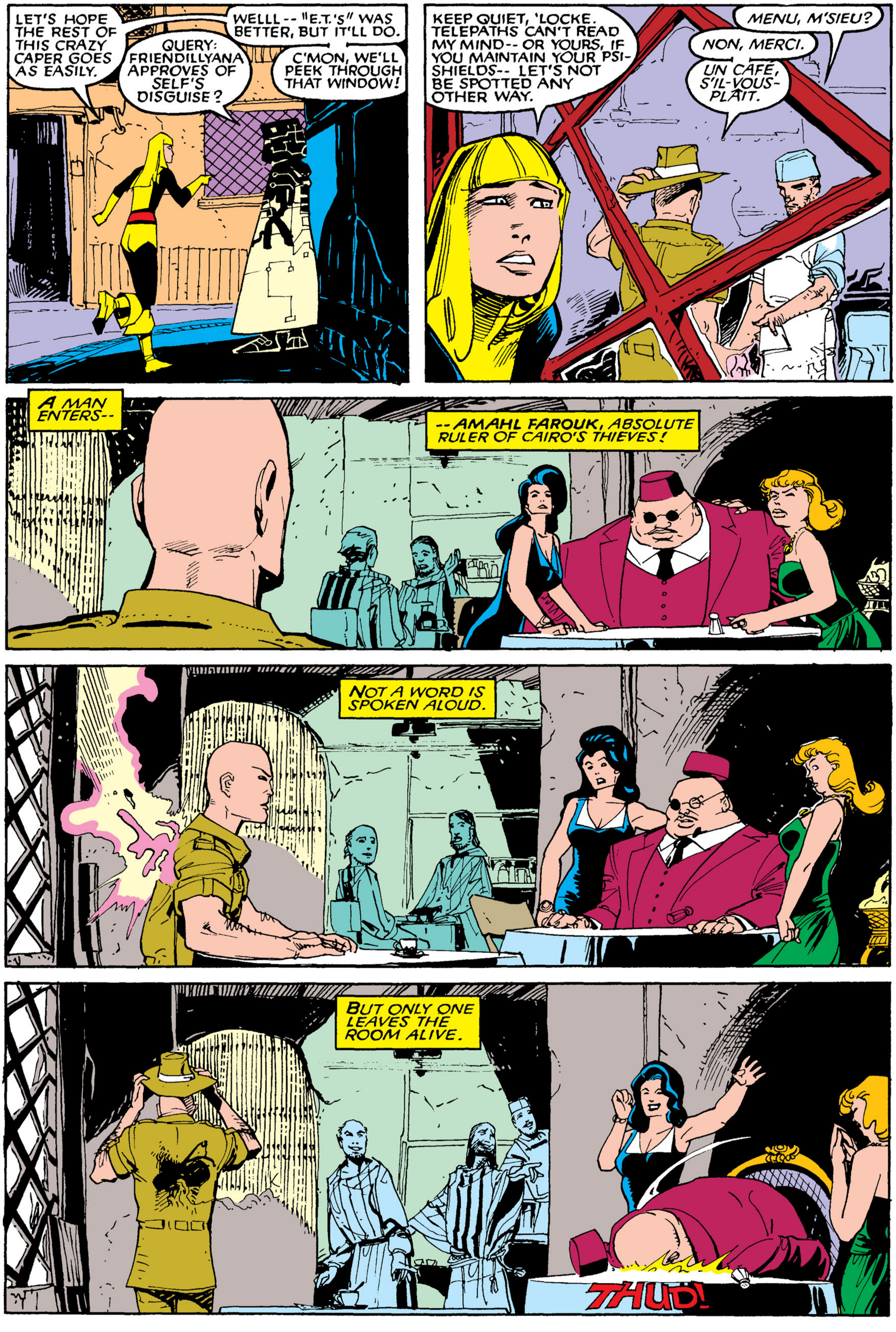

I--I CAN'T!!!
WHEW!
?!?
COWARD, SELF IS! WEAKLING! NO WONDER SELF'S SIRE SEEKS TO DESTROY SELF.
SELF FAILED TO STAND BY SELFRIENDS. FAILED NOW TO AVENGE THEM! SELF IS NOT WORTHY EVEN TO LIVE!
NO WAY, JOSÉ!
DON'T YOU DARE DISCORPORATE ON ME, YOU ELECTRONIC LUMMOX!
WARLOCK, YOU LISTEN TO ME, BUSTER!
YOU ARE NOT A COWARD!
YOU ARE AS BRAVE AND NOBLE AND TRUE-BLUE AS ANY OF THE MUTANTS, --OR THE X-MEN!
AND I MEAN TO GIVE YOU THE CHANCE TO PROVE IT!
WARLOCK--!?!
PUNK OUT ON ME AND YOU REALLY WILL BE ALL THOSE BAD THINGS YOU THINK YOU ARE! THE OTHERS NEED YOU--I'M COUNTING ON YOU--YOU'RE THEIR LAST, BEST HOPE!
TRUTH?
HEY, WOULD I LIE?
SELF WAS WRONG?! ILLYANA IS NOT A ONCE-FRIEND?!?
YAY!
OF COURSE NOT, SILLY!
Sigh!

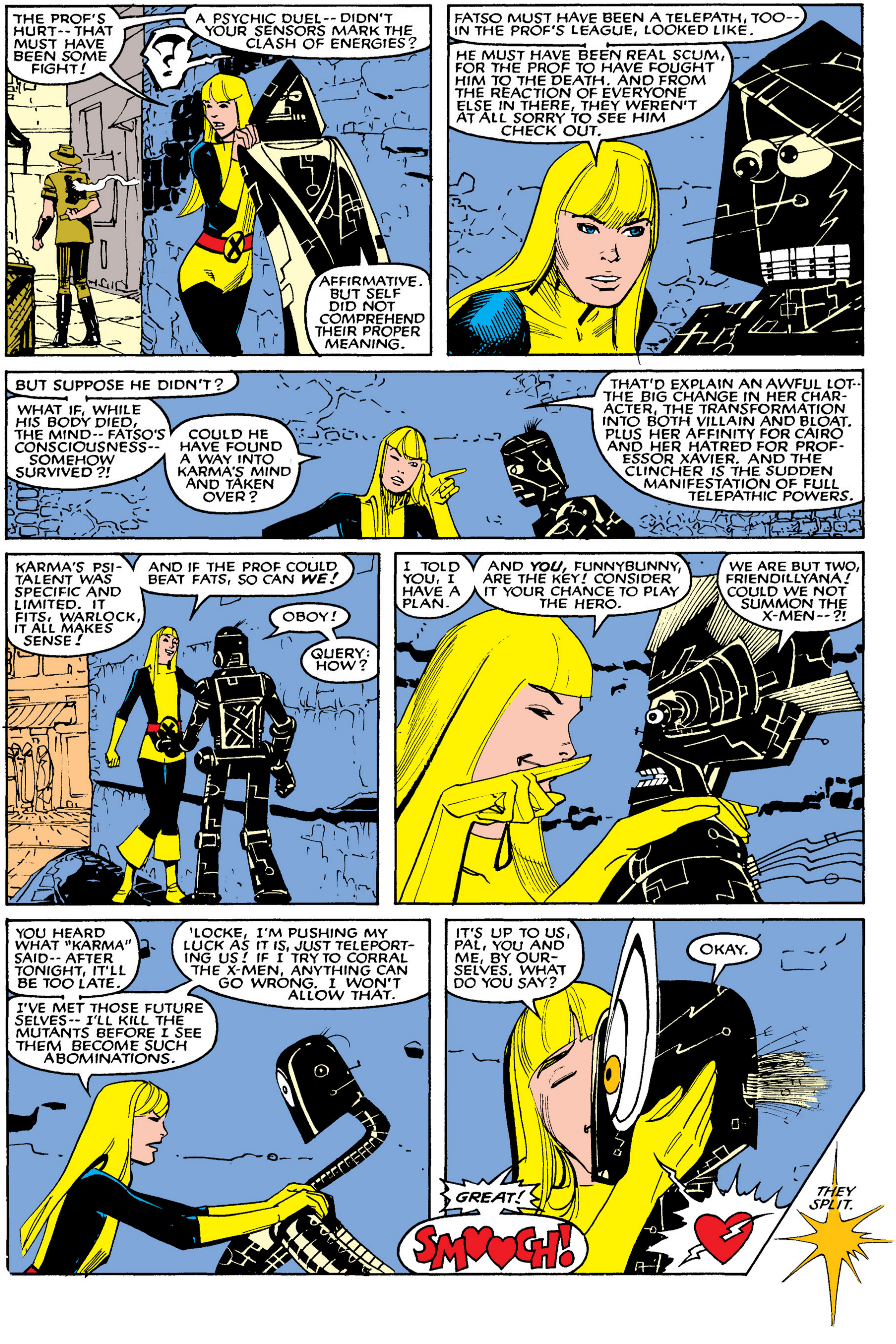

BEFORE WE MAKE ANY MOVES...
...LET'S USE A SCRYING POOL...
...TO SEE WHAT'S COOKING AT KARMA'S!
THERE'S THE BLOAT-- *YUCK!*
THE KIDS--AND STORM-- ARE ALL *POSSESSED,* COMPLETELY IN HER POWER. IN A SENSE, THEY DON'T EVEN EXIST ANYMORE, IT'S LIKE SHE REPLACED THEIR MINDS WITH HER OWN.
EVERY THOUGHT, EVERY WORD, EVERY DEED ISN'T THEIRS, BUT HERS!
THAT'S HER NIGHTCLUB IN CAIRO-- *PHARAOH!*
LOOK AT THAT CROWD, IT MUST BE THE HOTTEST SPOT IN TOWN.
SHALL WE FIND SOMEONE TO PLAY WITH, ORORO?
YES, MISTRESS.
A BODY TO HUMILIATE, A SOUL TO SAVAGE?
YES, MISTRESS.
SUCH A DUTIFUL SLAVE.
YOU KNOW WHAT I LIKE, A VICTIM AS PURE AS YOURSELF...
NO!
THIS IS WRONG! THIS IS-- *EVIL!*
I...WILL BE... NO PARTY TO IT!
GODDESS... GIVE ME STRENGTH...
...I-- SHALL--BE-- *FREE!*

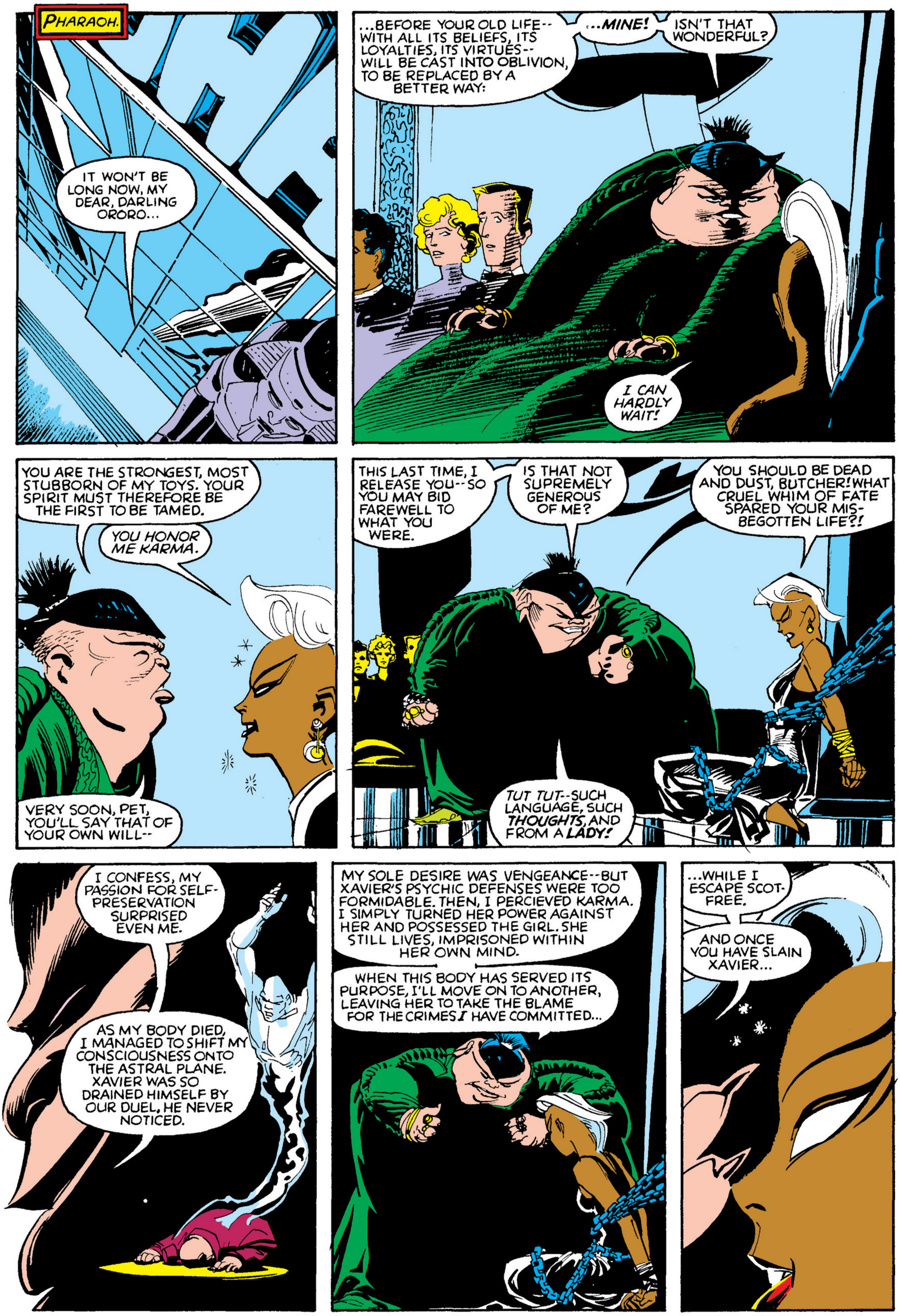

NO, YOU SHAN'T.
SAVE FOR YOUR ACCURSED MENTOR, **CHARLES XAVIER**, YOURS IS THE STRONGEST WILL I HAVE EVER ENCOUNTERED.
BUT MY HOOKS ARE SUNK TOO DEEP IN YOU, WIND-RIDER. TRY AS YOU MIGHT, YOU WILL NOT WIN.
SHE CAN! SHE *MUST!*
ILLYANA, ISN'T THERE SOME WAY WE CAN HELP?!
NO.
FORGIVE ME, ORORO. I'VE BEEN A SLAVE--TO AS FOUL AND CRUEL A MASTER--IT BREAKS MY HEART TO SEE YOU LIKE THIS.
BUT THIS ISN'T THE RIGHT TIME FOR SUCH A MOVE--YOUR SUCCESS COULD RUIN EVERYTHING.
WE'RE NO MATCH INDIVIDUALLY FOR KARMA, OUR BEST HOPE IS TO FACE HER AS A TEAM.
"WE'LL ONLY HAVE ONE CHANCE. I DAREN'T LET ANYTHING SPOIL IT."
SEE?
I TOLD YOU SO.
NOW, SHOW THESE DEAR PEOPLE HOW MUCH YOU LOVE ME.
DISGUSTING!
DON'T KNOCK IT, SWEETS.
WHAT COMES NEXT?
IS THIS PART OF THE SHOW?
I'M BORED!
GIMME A BREAK, THE BROAD'S AN ACTOR!
NONE OF THIS IS REAL.
ENCORE!
I'M LEAVING!
HOW COULD YOU BRING ME HERE?!
I CAN'T WAIT TO COME BACK!
DINNER AND DANCING!
NOT BAD... FOR AN AMATEUR.
... PLEASE OH PLEASE, ME NEXT?!
WHAT TASTE!

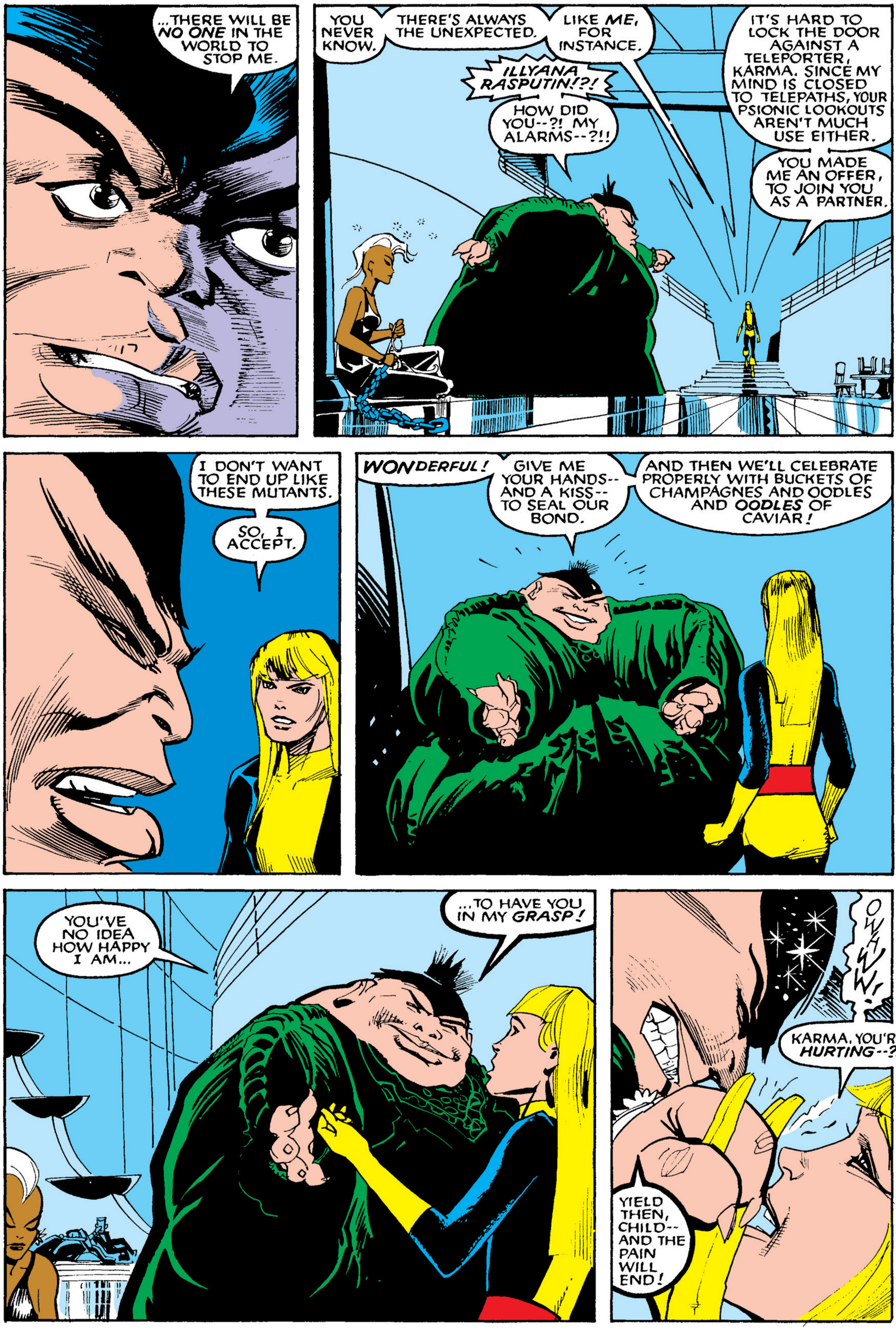

THEY CALL THIS THE MOST WICKED PLACE, MY POPPETS-- AND ME, THE MOST EVIL FIGURE-- IN CAIRO.
YET THEY FLOCK TO PHARAOH. MY CLUB IS ALWAYS FULL. REGARDLESS OF WHAT I DO, THEY HURRY BACK FOR MORE.
HERE, THESE PATHETIC FOOLS DANCE A STEP OR TWO OVER THE LINE, INTO THE SHADOW-- SECURE IN THE BELIEF THAT TOMORROW THEY'LL BE BACK SAFE AND SOUND IN THE LIGHT.
BUT THEY'RE WRONG! I INFECT THEM WITH A TAINT THEY'LL NEVER BE RID OF, A CORRUPTION THAT WILL GROW AND GROW UNTIL IT ROTS THEIR SOULS! Tee hee hee!
A MAGNIFICENT EFFORT, WINDRIDER.
YOU VERY NEARLY BESTED ME.
REST ASSURED, YOU'LL NOT BE ALLOWED A SECOND SUCH OPPORTUNITY.
YOU KNOW THE TRUTH, DON'T YOU?
MY TRUE IDENTITY AND ORIGIN, THAT I'M NOT KARMA AT ALL BUT CHARLES XAVIER'S OLDEST-- BITTEREST, DEADLIEST FOE!
LITTLE GOOD THAT KNOWLEDGE HAS DONE YOU.
IT WILL DO HIM EVEN LESS!
KWAP!
YOU AND THESE CHILDREN SHALL BE THE INSTRUMENTS OF MY LONG YEARNED FOR VENGEANCE.
THE VICTORY XAVIER WON SO MANY YEARS AGO IN CAIRO WILL BE RENDERED HOLLOW, ALL HE VALUES AND HOLDS MOST DEAR SHALL BE REDUCED TO ASHES.
AS I, SUFFERED, SO SHALL HE!
TO THAT END, I MUST ELIMINATE ALL POSSIBILITIES OF DEFIANCE AND ESCAPE. TONIGHT, I SHALL PSYCHICALLY OPERATE ON YOUR MINDS, PERMANENTLY ALTERING YOUR PERSONALITIES SO THAT YOU WILL HENCEFORTH FOLLOW ME WILLINGLY, WITHOUT ANY MORE NEED OF MY POSSESSING YOU.
DOES THAT PLEASE YOU, ORORO? IS IT NOT IN FACT, YOUR HEART'S DESIRE?
Oh, YES! YES! YES!
Tee hee hee tee hee!

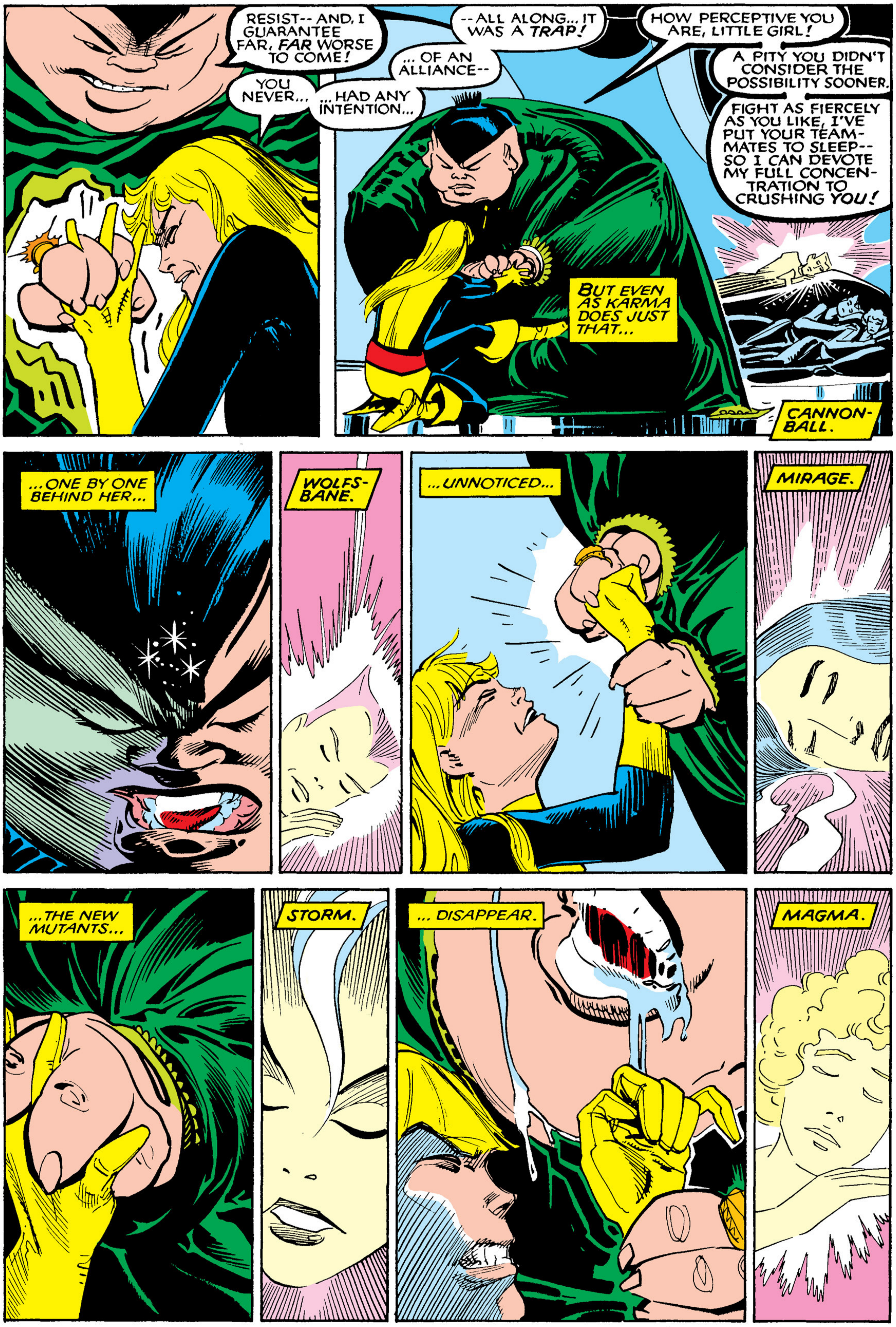

CAIRO...
...NEARLY TWENTY YEARS AGO...
...A VERY YOUNG, VERY SKILLFUL PICKPOCKET RACES, LAUGHING, THROUGH THE CROWDED BAZAAR, PRIZE CLUTCHED TIGHT IN HER HAND...
...THE WALLET OF A YANKEE TOURIST.
SHE'S CERTAIN SHE'S GIVEN HIM THE SLIP...
...BUT THEN...
THAT'S QUITE FAR ENOUGH, YOUNG LADY!
OH!
SHE'S BEEN STOPPED IN HER TRACKS BY A GENTLE TELEPATHIC FORCE BOLT...
...THROWN BY CHARLES XAVIER.
SUDDENLY, THOUGH, HE'S STRUCK DOWN HIMSELF BY A SIMILAR-- BUT INCREDIBLY BRUTAL-- PSIONIC ASSAULT, WHOSE NEXUS IS A NEARBY SALOON.
IN ALL HIS LIFE, HE HAS NEVER ENCOUNTERED SUCH RAW POWER --OR MALEVOLENCE.
THE THIEF IS FORGOTTEN...
...AND IMMEDIATELY TAKES FULL ADVANTAGE OF HER UNEXPECTED GOOD FORTUNE.
THAT HAIR-- THOSE BLUE EYES-- 'LOCKE, IT'S ORORO!
SHE REALLY WAS A THIEF-- WOW!
QUERY: WE HAVE TIME-SHIFTED?!
YOU BETCHA! AND I EVEN GOT IT RIGHT FOR ONCE. BASED ON WHAT WE HEARD, AND WHAT I FIGURED OUT FROM THAT, I THINK WE'RE WHERE AND WHEN WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE!

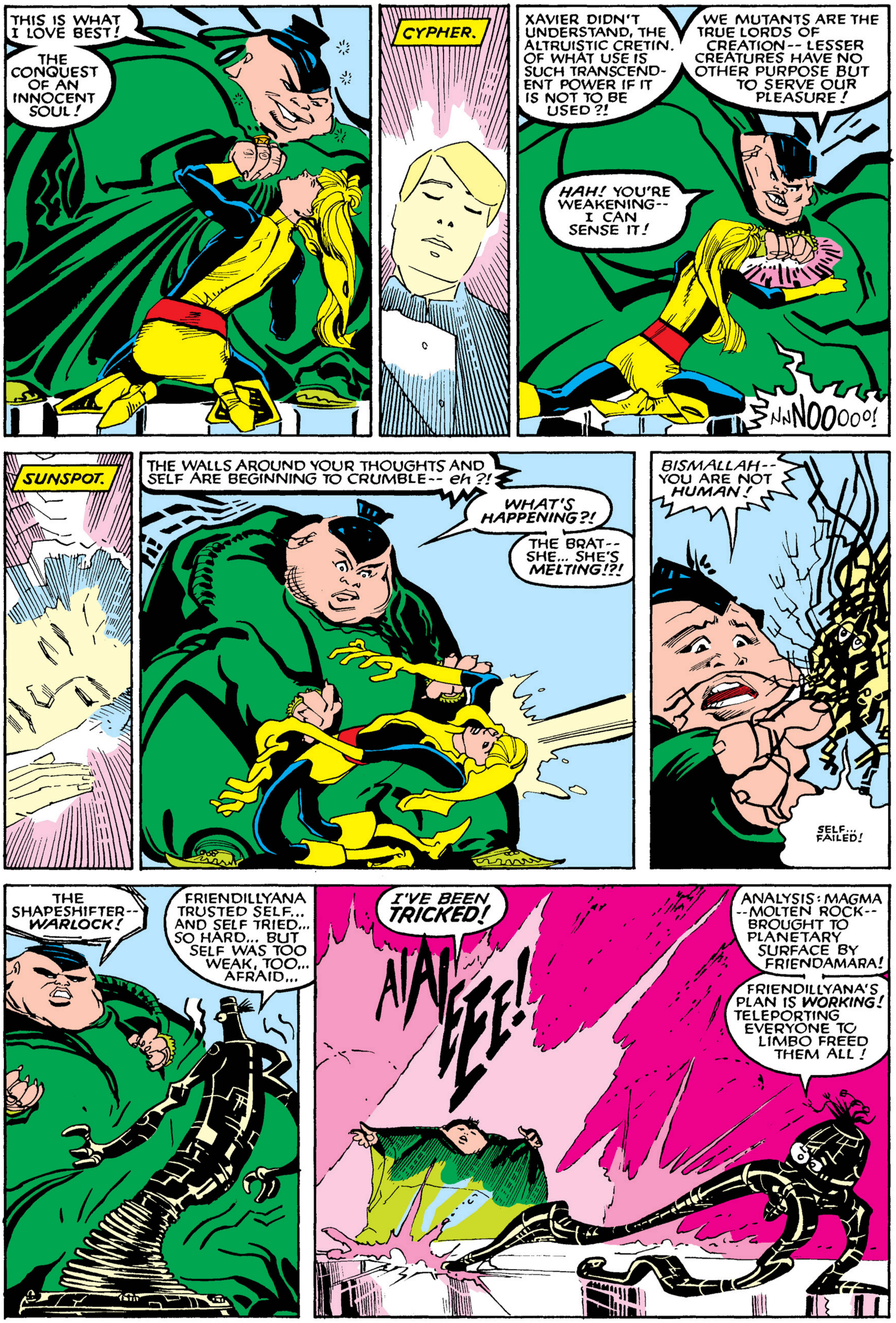

LET'S HOPE THE REST OF THIS CRAZY CAPER GOES AS EASILY.
WELLL -- "E.T.'S" WAS BETTER, BUT IT'LL DO.
QUERY: FRIENDILLYANA APPROVES OF SELF'S DISGUISE?
C'MON, WE'LL PEEK THROUGH THAT WINDOW!
KEEP QUIET, 'LOCKE. TELEPATHS CAN'T READ MY MIND-- OR YOURS, IF YOU MAINTAIN YOUR PSI-SHIELDS-- LET'S NOT BE SPOTTED ANY OTHER WAY.
MENU, M'SIEU?
NON, MERCI.
UN CAFÉ, S'IL-VOUS-PLAIT.
A MAN ENTERS--
--AMAHL FAROUK, ABSOLUTE RULER OF CAIRO'S THIEVES!
NOT A WORD IS SPOKEN ALOUD.
BUT ONLY ONE LEAVES THE ROOM ALIVE.
THUD!

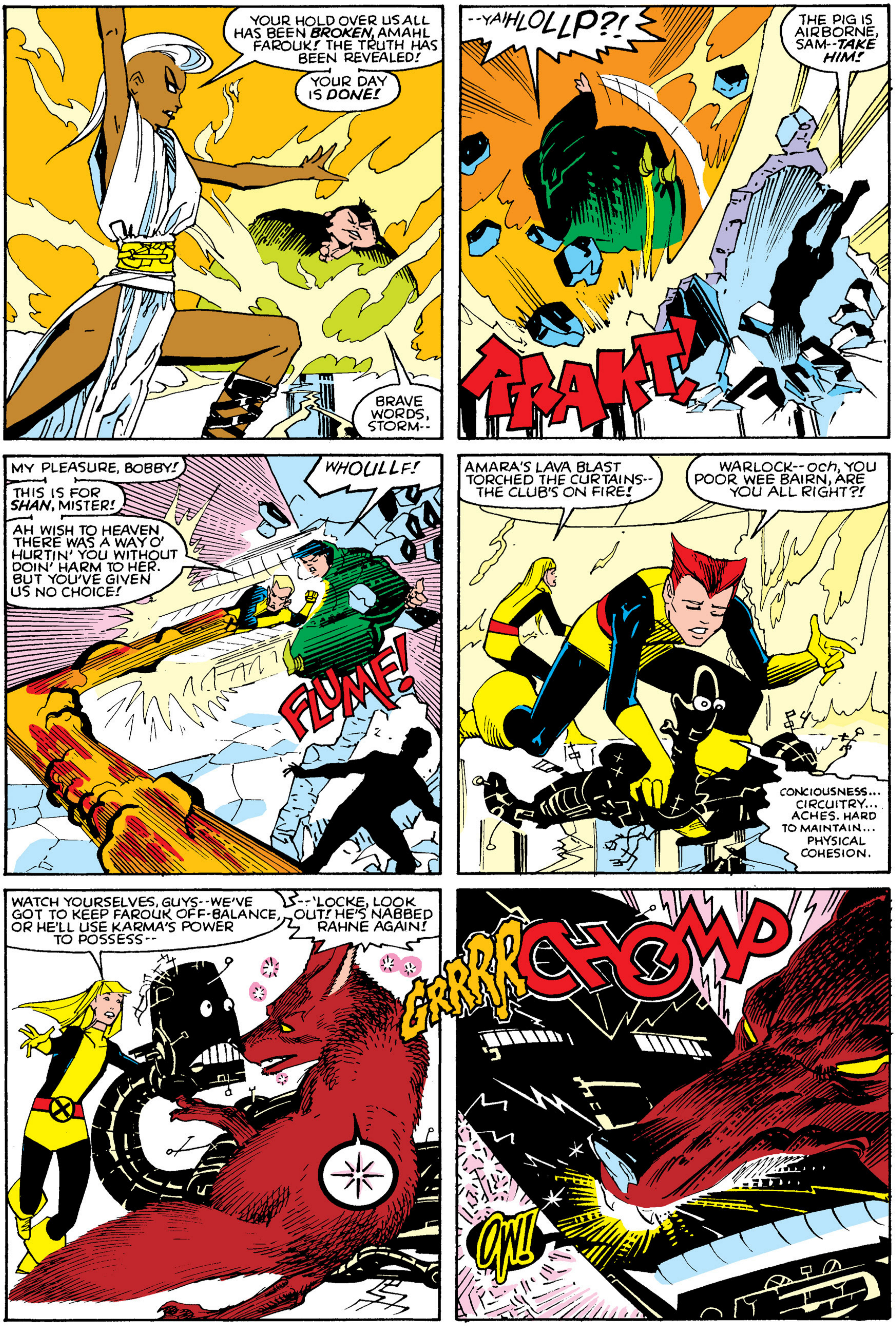

THE PROF'S HURT-- THAT MUST HAVE BEEN SOME FIGHT!
A PSYCHIC DUEL-- DIDN'T YOUR SENSORS MARK THE CLASH OF ENERGIES?
AFFIRMATIVE. BUT SELF DID NOT COMPREHEND THEIR PROPER MEANING.
FATSO MUST HAVE BEEN A TELEPATH, TOO-- IN THE PROF'S LEAGUE, LOOKED LIKE.
HE MUST HAVE BEEN REAL SCUM, FOR THE PROF TO HAVE FOUGHT HIM TO THE DEATH. AND FROM THE REACTION OF EVERYONE ELSE IN THERE, THEY WEREN'T AT ALL SORRY TO SEE HIM CHECK OUT.
BUT SUPPOSE HE DIDN'T?
WHAT IF, WHILE HIS BODY DIED, THE MIND-- FATSO'S CONSCIOUSNESS-- SOMEHOW SURVIVED?!
COULD HE HAVE FOUND A WAY INTO KARMA'S MIND AND TAKEN OVER?
THAT'D EXPLAIN AN AWFUL LOT-- THE BIG CHANGE IN HER CHARACTER, THE TRANSFORMATION INTO BOTH VILLAIN AND BLOAT. PLUS HER AFFINITY FOR CAIRO AND HER HATRED FOR PROFESSOR XAVIER. AND THE CLINCHER IS THE SUDDEN MANIFESTATION OF FULL TELEPATHIC POWERS.
KARMA'S PSI-TALENT WAS SPECIFIC AND LIMITED. IT FITS, WARLOCK, IT ALL MAKES SENSE!
AND IF THE PROF COULD BEAT FATS, SO CAN *WE!*
OBOY!
QUERY: HOW?
I TOLD YOU, I HAVE A PLAN.
AND *YOU,* FUNNYBUNNY, ARE THE KEY! CONSIDER IT YOUR CHANCE TO PLAY THE HERO.
WE ARE BUT TWO, FRIENDILLYANA! COULD WE NOT SUMMON THE X-MEN--?!
YOU HEARD WHAT "KARMA" SAID-- AFTER TONIGHT, IT'LL BE TOO LATE.
I'VE MET THOSE FUTURE SELVES-- I'LL KILL THE MUTANTS BEFORE I SEE THEM BECOME SUCH ABOMINATIONS.
'LOCKE, I'M PUSHING MY LUCK AS IT IS, JUST TELEPORTING US! IF I TRY TO CORRAL THE X-MEN, ANYTHING CAN GO WRONG. I WON'T ALLOW THAT.
IT'S UP TO US, PAL, YOU AND ME, BY OURSELVES. WHAT DO YOU SAY?
OKAY.
GREAT!
SMOOCH!
THEY SPLIT.

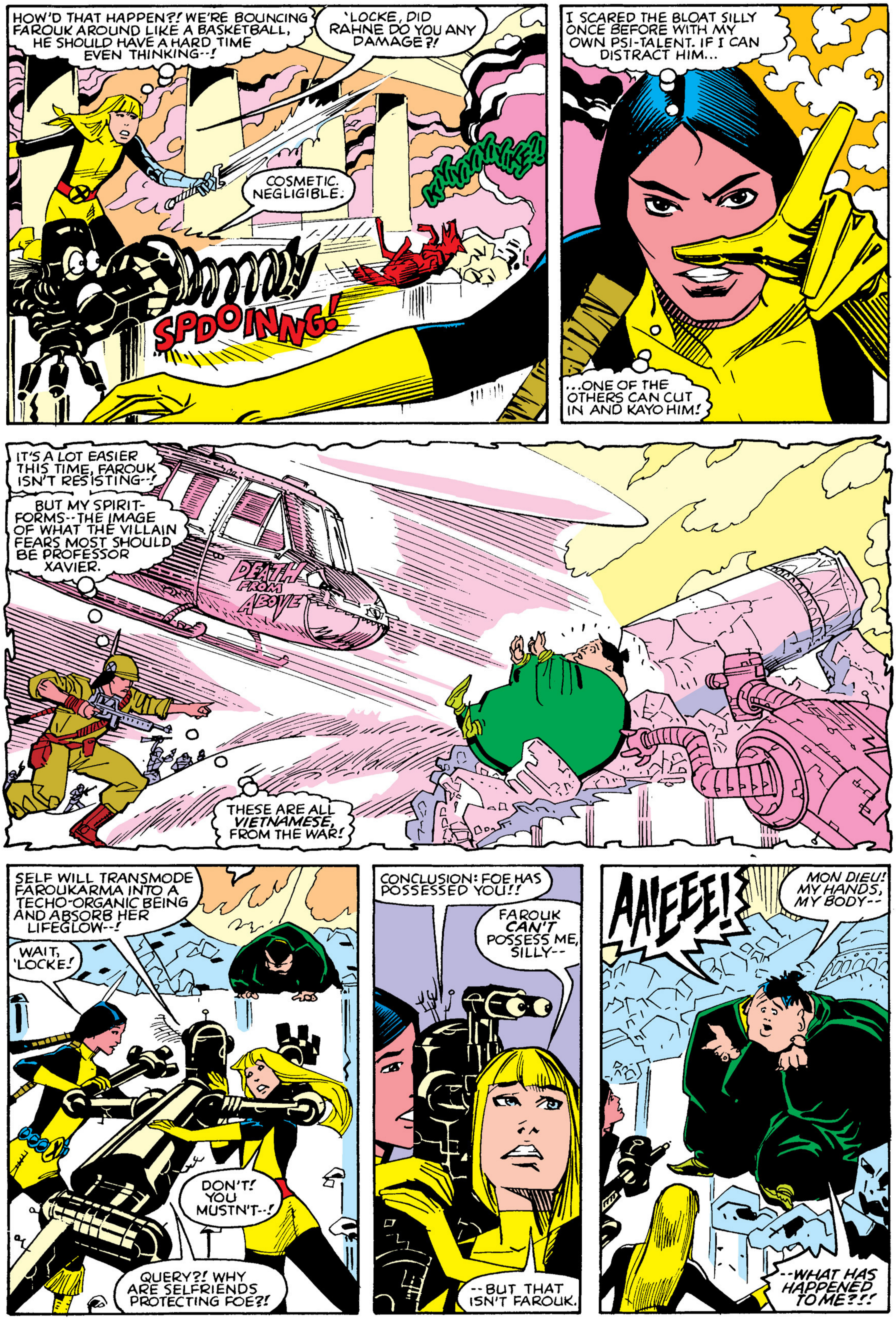

PHARAOH.
IT WON'T BE LONG NOW, MY DEAR, DARLING ORORO...
...BEFORE YOUR OLD LIFE-- WITH ALL ITS BELIEFS, ITS LOYALTIES, ITS VIRTUES-- WILL BE CAST INTO OBLIVION, TO BE REPLACED BY A BETTER WAY:
...MINE!
ISN'T THAT WONDERFUL?
I CAN HARDLY WAIT!
YOU ARE THE STRONGEST, MOST STUBBORN OF MY TOYS. YOUR SPIRIT MUST THEREFORE BE THE FIRST TO BE TAMED.
YOU HONOR ME KARMA.
VERY SOON, PET, YOU'LL SAY THAT OF YOUR OWN WILL--
THIS LAST TIME, I RELEASE YOU--SO YOU MAY BID FAREWELL TO WHAT YOU WERE.
IS THAT NOT SUPREMELY GENEROUS OF ME?
YOU SHOULD BE DEAD AND DUST, BUTCHER! WHAT CRUEL WHIM OF FATE SPARED YOUR MIS-BEGOTTEN LIFE?!
TUT TUT--SUCH LANGUAGE, SUCH THOUGHTS, AND FROM A LADY!
I CONFESS, MY PASSION FOR SELF-PRESERVATION SURPRISED EVEN ME.
AS MY BODY DIED, I MANAGED TO SHIFT MY CONSCIOUSNESS ONTO THE ASTRAL PLANE. XAVIER WAS SO DRAINED HIMSELF BY OUR DUEL, HE NEVER NOTICED.
MY SOLE DESIRE WAS VENGEANCE--BUT XAVIER'S PSYCHIC DEFENSES WERE TOO FORMIDABLE. THEN, I PERCIEVED KARMA. I SIMPLY TURNED HER POWER AGAINST HER AND POSSESSED THE GIRL. SHE STILL LIVES, IMPRISONED WITHIN HER OWN MIND.
WHEN THIS BODY HAS SERVED ITS PURPOSE, I'LL MOVE ON TO ANOTHER, LEAVING HER TO TAKE THE BLAME FOR THE CRIMES I HAVE COMMITTED...
...WHILE I ESCAPE SCOT-FREE.
AND ONCE YOU HAVE SLAIN XAVIER...

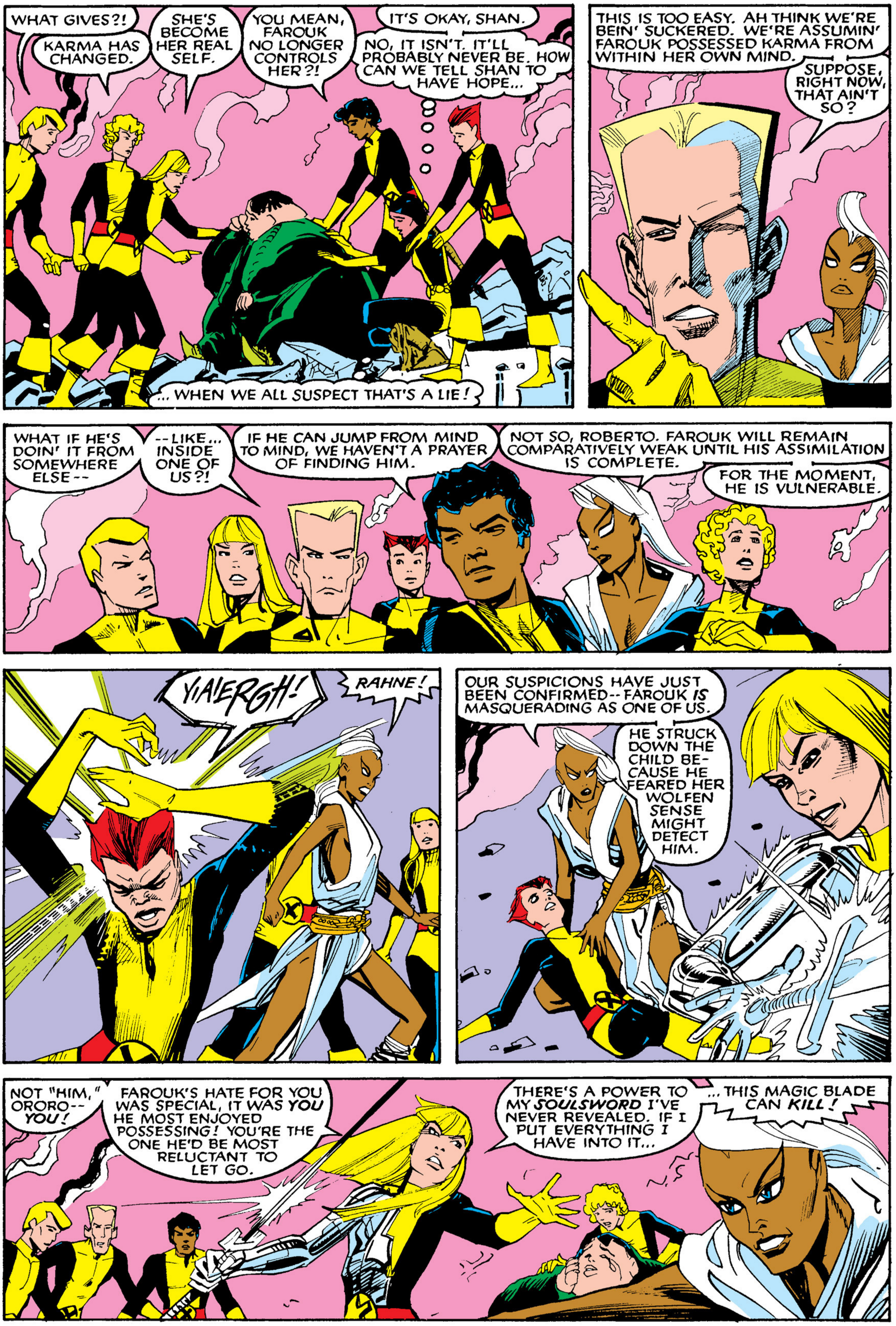

...THERE WILL BE *NO ONE* IN THE WORLD TO STOP ME.
YOU NEVER KNOW.
THERE'S ALWAYS THE UNEXPECTED.
LIKE *ME*, FOR INSTANCE.
ILLYANA RASPUTIN!?!
HOW DID YOU--?! MY ALARMS--?!!
IT'S HARD TO LOCK THE DOOR AGAINST A TELEPORTER, KARMA. SINCE MY MIND IS CLOSED TO TELEPATHS, YOUR PSIONIC LOOKOUTS AREN'T MUCH USE EITHER.
YOU MADE ME AN OFFER, TO JOIN YOU AS A PARTNER.
I DON'T WANT TO END UP LIKE THESE MUTANTS.
SO, I ACCEPT.
WONDERFUL!
GIVE ME YOUR HANDS-- AND A KISS-- TO SEAL OUR BOND.
AND THEN WE'LL CELEBRATE PROPERLY WITH BUCKETS OF CHAMPAGNES AND OODLES AND *OODLES* OF CAVIAR!
YOU'VE NO IDEA HOW HAPPY I AM...
...TO HAVE YOU IN MY *GRASP!*
OWAWW!!
KARMA, YOU'RE *HURTING--?!*
YIELD THEN, CHILD-- AND THE PAIN WILL END!

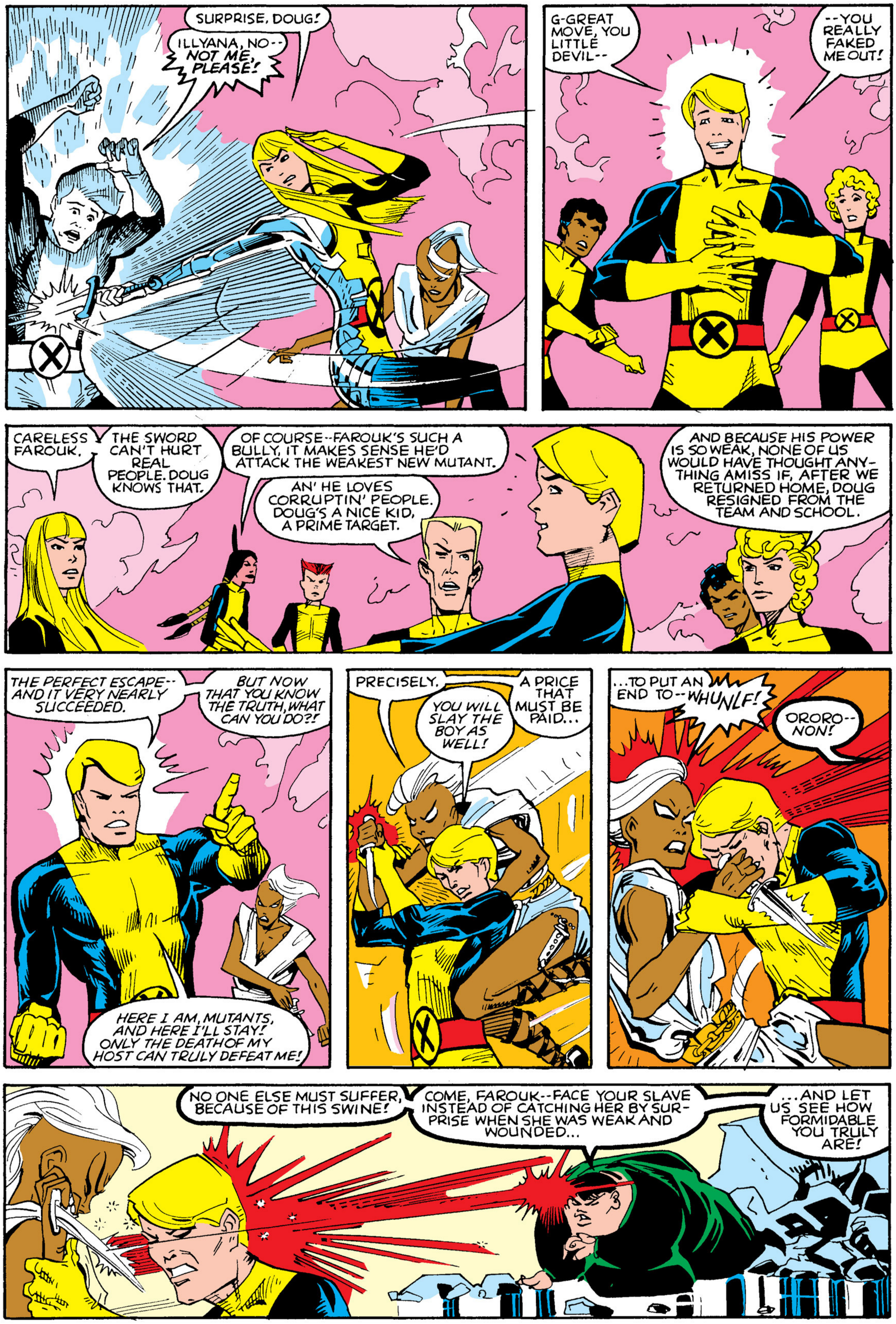

RESIST-- AND, I GUARANTEE FAR, *FAR* WORSE TO COME!
YOU NEVER...
...HAD ANY INTENTION...
...OF AN ALLIANCE--
--ALL ALONG... IT WAS A *TRAP!*
HOW PERCEPTIVE YOU ARE, LITTLE GIRL!
A PITY YOU DIDN'T CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY SOONER.
FIGHT AS FIERCELY AS YOU LIKE, I'VE PUT YOUR TEAMMATES TO SLEEP-- SO I CAN DEVOTE MY FULL CONCENTRATION TO CRUSHING *YOU!*
BUT EVEN AS KARMA DOES JUST THAT...
CANNONBALL.
...ONE BY ONE BEHIND HER...
WOLFSBANE.
...UNNOTICED...
MIRAGE.
...THE NEW MUTANTS...
STORM.
...DISAPPEAR.
MAGMA.

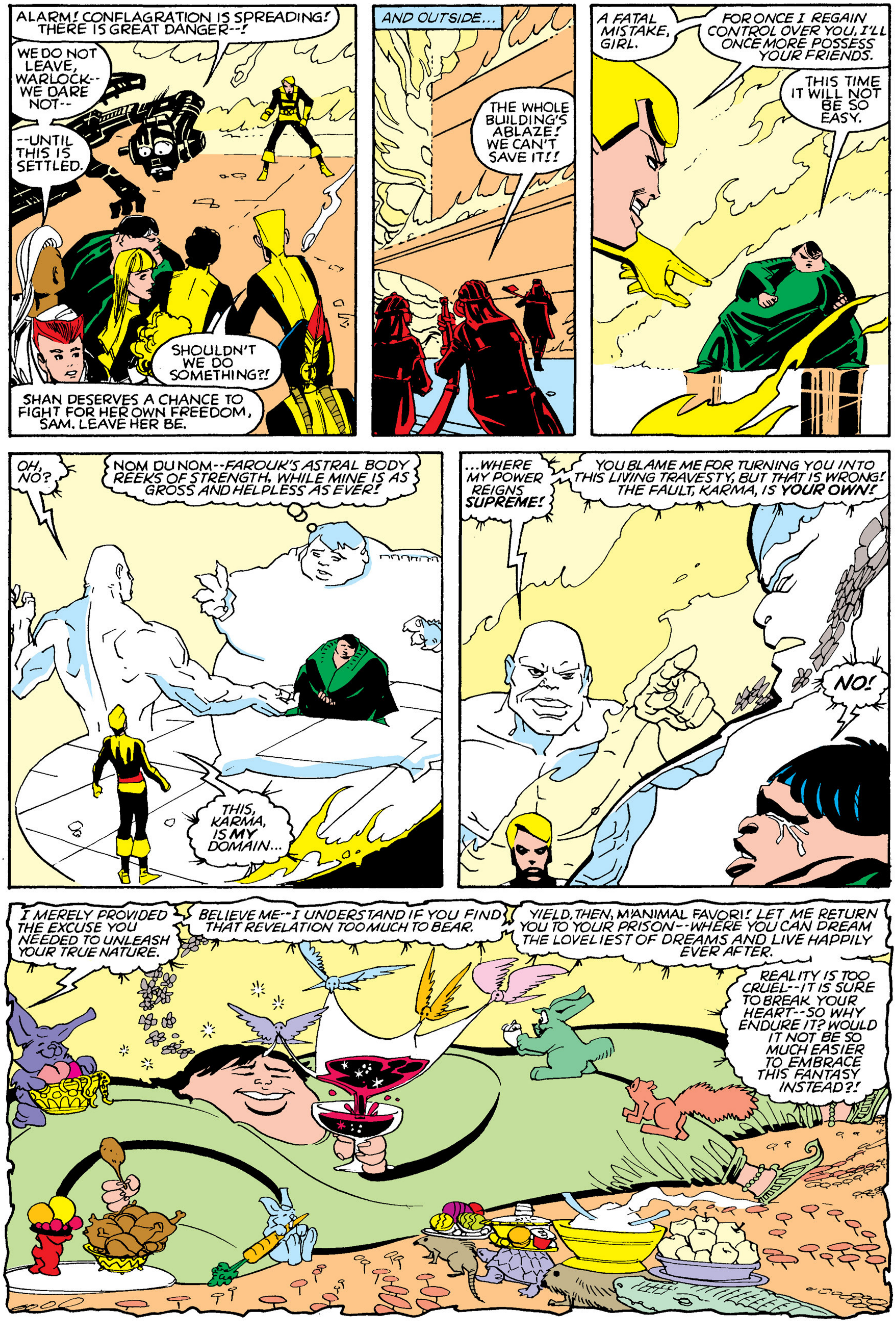

THIS IS WHAT I LOVE BEST!
THE CONQUEST OF AN INNOCENT SOUL!
CYPHER.
XAVIER DIDN'T UNDERSTAND, THE ALTRUISTIC CRETIN. OF WHAT USE IS SUCH TRANSCENDENT POWER IF IT IS NOT TO BE USED?!
WE MUTANTS ARE THE TRUE LORDS OF CREATION-- LESSER CREATURES HAVE NO OTHER PURPOSE BUT TO SERVE OUR PLEASURE!
HAH! YOU'RE WEAKENING-- I CAN SENSE IT!
NNNOOOOO!
SUNSPOT.
THE WALLS AROUND YOUR THOUGHTS AND SELF ARE BEGINNING TO CRUMBLE-- eh?!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
THE BRAT-- SHE... SHE'S MELTING!?!
BISMALLAH-- YOU ARE NOT HUMAN!
SELF... FAILED!
THE SHAPESHIFTER-- WARLOCK!
FRIENDILLYANA TRUSTED SELF... AND SELF TRIED... SO HARD... BUT SELF WAS TOO WEAK, TOO... AFRAID...
I'VE BEEN TRICKED!
AIAIEEE!
ANALYSIS: MAGMA --MOLTEN ROCK-- BROUGHT TO PLANETARY SURFACE BY FRIENDAMARA!
FRIENDILLYANA'S PLAN IS WORKING! TELEPORTING EVERYONE TO LIMBO FREED THEM ALL!

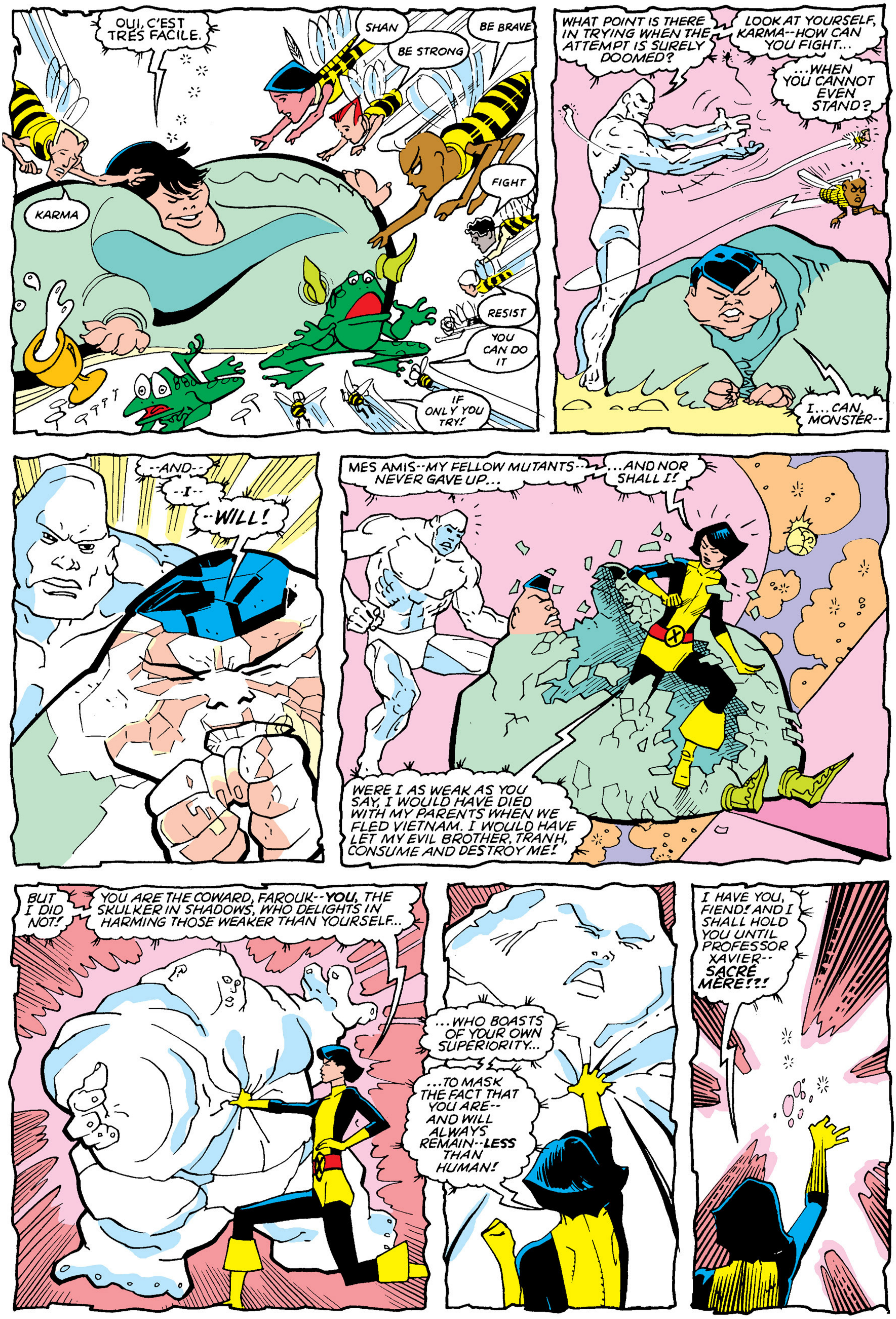

YOUR HOLD OVER US ALL HAS BEEN *BROKEN*, AMAHL FAROUK! THE TRUTH HAS BEEN REVEALED!
YOUR DAY IS *DONE!*
BRAVE WORDS, STORM--
--YAIHLOLLP?!
THE PIG IS AIRBORNE, SAM--*TAKE HIM!*
PRAKT!
MY PLEASURE, BOBBY!
THIS IS FOR *SHAN*, MISTER!
AH WISH TO HEAVEN THERE WAS A WAY O' HURTIN' YOU WITHOUT DOIN' HARM TO HER. BUT YOU'VE GIVEN US NO CHOICE!
WHOULLF!
FLUMF!
AMARA'S LAVA BLAST TORCHED THE CURTAINS-- THE CLUB'S ON FIRE!
WARLOCK--*och*, YOU POOR WEE BAIRN, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
CONCIOUSNESS... CIRCUITRY... ACHES. HARD TO MAINTAIN... PHYSICAL COHESION.
WATCH YOURSELVES, GUYS--WE'VE GOT TO KEEP FAROUK OFF-BALANCE, OR HE'LL USE KARMA'S POWER TO POSSESS--
--'LOCKE, LOOK OUT! HE'S NABBED RAHNE AGAIN!
GRRRRCHOMP
OW!!

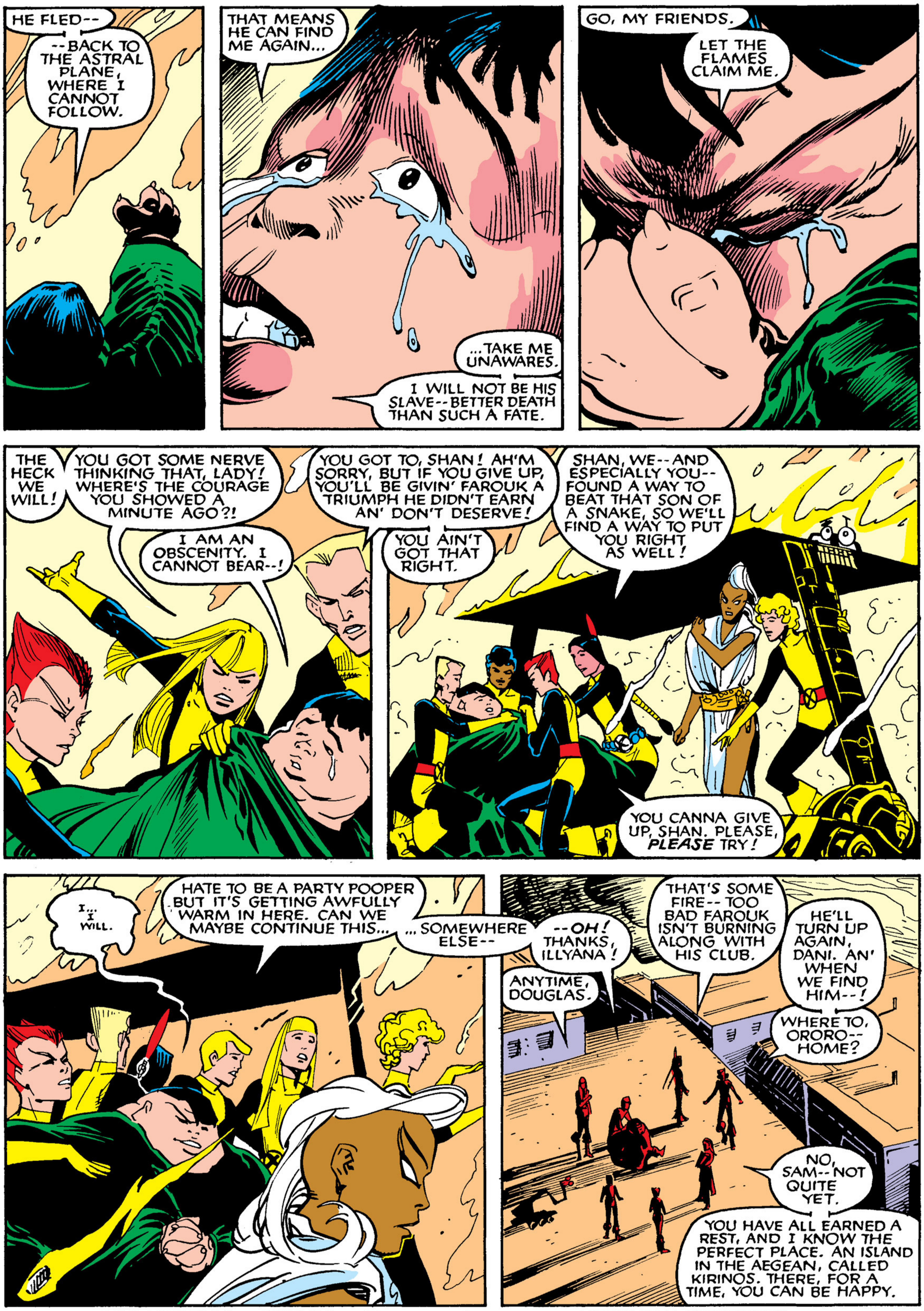

HOW'D THAT HAPPEN?! WE'RE BOUNCING FAROUK AROUND LIKE A BASKETBALL, HE SHOULD HAVE A HARD TIME EVEN THINKING--!
'LOCKE, DID RAHNE DO YOU ANY DAMAGE?!
COSMETIC. NEGLIGIBLE.
KYYYYYYYYIIEE?!
SPDOINNG!
I SCARED THE BLOAT SILLY ONCE BEFORE WITH MY OWN PSI-TALENT. IF I CAN DISTRACT HIM...
...ONE OF THE OTHERS CAN CUT IN AND KAYO HIM!
IT'S A LOT EASIER THIS TIME, FAROUK ISN'T RESISTING--!
BUT MY SPIRIT-FORMS--THE IMAGE OF WHAT THE VILLAIN FEARS MOST SHOULD BE PROFESSOR XAVIER.
DEATH FROM ABOVE
THESE ARE ALL *VIETNAMESE*, FROM THE WAR!
SELF WILL TRANSMODE FAROUKARMA INTO A TECHO-ORGANIC BEING AND ABSORB HER LIFEGLOW--!
WAIT, 'LOCKE!
DON'T! YOU MUSTN'T--!
QUERY?! WHY ARE SELFRIENDS PROTECTING FOE?!
CONCLUSION: FOE HAS POSSESSED YOU!!
FAROUK *CAN'T* POSSESS ME, SILLY--
--BUT THAT ISN'T FAROUK.
AAIEEEE!
MON DIEU! MY HANDS, MY BODY--
--WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO ME?!!


WHAT GIVES?!
KARMA HAS CHANGED.
SHE'S BECOME HER REAL SELF.
YOU MEAN, FAROUK NO LONGER CONTROLS HER?!
IT'S OKAY, SHAN.
NO, IT ISN'T. IT'LL PROBABLY NEVER BE. HOW CAN WE TELL SHAN TO HAVE HOPE...
...WHEN WE ALL SUSPECT THAT'S A LIE!
THIS IS TOO EASY. AH THINK WE'RE BEIN' SUCKERED. WE'RE ASSUMIN' FAROUK POSSESSED KARMA FROM WITHIN HER OWN MIND.
SUPPOSE, RIGHT NOW, THAT AIN'T SO?
WHAT IF HE'S DOIN' IT FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE--
--LIKE... INSIDE ONE OF US?!
IF HE CAN JUMP FROM MIND TO MIND, WE HAVEN'T A PRAYER OF FINDING HIM.
NOT SO, ROBERTO. FAROUK WILL REMAIN COMPARATIVELY WEAK UNTIL HIS ASSIMILATION IS COMPLETE.
FOR THE MOMENT, HE IS VULNERABLE.
YIAAERGH!
RAHNE!
OUR SUSPICIONS HAVE JUST BEEN CONFIRMED--FAROUK *IS* MASQUERADING AS ONE OF US.
HE STRUCK DOWN THE CHILD BECAUSE HE FEARED HER WOLFEN SENSE MIGHT DETECT HIM.
NOT "HIM," ORORO-- *YOU!*
FAROUK'S HATE FOR YOU WAS SPECIAL, IT WAS *YOU* HE MOST ENJOYED POSSESSING! YOU'RE THE ONE HE'D BE MOST RELUCTANT TO LET GO.
THERE'S A POWER TO MY *SOULSWORD* I'VE NEVER REVEALED. IF I PUT EVERYTHING *I* HAVE INTO IT...
...THIS MAGIC BLADE CAN *KILL!*


SURPRISE, DOUG!
ILLYANA, NO-- *NOT ME, PLEASE!*
G-GREAT MOVE, YOU LITTLE DEVIL--
--YOU REALLY FAKED ME OUT!
CARELESS FAROUK.
THE SWORD CAN'T HURT REAL PEOPLE. DOUG KNOWS THAT.
OF COURSE--FAROUK'S SUCH A BULLY, IT MAKES SENSE HE'D ATTACK THE WEAKEST NEW MUTANT.
AN' HE LOVES CORRUPTIN' PEOPLE. DOUG'S A NICE KID, A PRIME TARGET.
AND BECAUSE HIS POWER IS SO WEAK, NONE OF US WOULD HAVE THOUGHT ANYTHING AMISS IF, AFTER WE RETURNED HOME, DOUG RESIGNED FROM THE TEAM AND SCHOOL.
THE PERFECT ESCAPE-- AND IT VERY NEARLY SUCCEEDED.
BUT NOW THAT YOU KNOW THE TRUTH, WHAT CAN YOU DO?!
HERE I AM, MUTANTS, AND HERE I'LL STAY! ONLY THE DEATH OF MY HOST CAN TRULY DEFEAT ME!
PRECISELY.
YOU WILL SLAY THE BOY AS WELL!
A PRICE THAT MUST BE PAID...
...TO PUT AN END TO--*WHUNLF!*
ORORO-- NON!
NO ONE ELSE MUST SUFFER, BECAUSE OF THIS SWINE!
COME, FAROUK--FACE YOUR SLAVE INSTEAD OF CATCHING HER BY SURPRISE WHEN SHE WAS WEAK AND WOUNDED...
...AND LET US SEE HOW FORMIDABLE YOU TRULY ARE!


ALARM! CONFLAGRATION IS SPREADING! THERE IS GREAT DANGER--!
WE DO NOT LEAVE, WARLOCK-- WE DARE NOT--
--UNTIL THIS IS SETTLED.
SHOULDN'T WE DO SOMETHING?!
SHAN DESERVES A CHANCE TO FIGHT FOR HER OWN FREEDOM, SAM. LEAVE HER BE.
AND OUTSIDE...
THE WHOLE BUILDING'S ABLAZE! WE CAN'T SAVE IT!!
A FATAL MISTAKE, GIRL.
FOR ONCE I REGAIN CONTROL OVER YOU, I'LL ONCE MORE POSSESS YOUR FRIENDS.
THIS TIME IT WILL NOT BE SO EASY.
OH, NO?
NOM DU NOM--FAROUK'S ASTRAL BODY REEKS OF STRENGTH, WHILE MINE IS AS GROSS AND HELPLESS AS EVER!
THIS, KARMA, IS MY DOMAIN...
...WHERE MY POWER REIGNS SUPREME!
YOU BLAME ME FOR TURNING YOU INTO THIS LIVING TRAVESTY, BUT THAT IS WRONG! THE FAULT, KARMA, IS YOUR OWN!
NO!
I MERELY PROVIDED THE EXCUSE YOU NEEDED TO UNLEASH YOUR TRUE NATURE.
BELIEVE ME--I UNDERSTAND IF YOU FIND THAT REVELATION TOO MUCH TO BEAR.
YIELD, THEN, M'ANIMAL FAVORI! LET ME RETURN YOU TO YOUR PRISON--WHERE YOU CAN DREAM THE LOVELIEST OF DREAMS AND LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER.
REALITY IS TOO CRUEL--IT IS SURE TO BREAK YOUR HEART--SO WHY ENDURE IT? WOULD IT NOT BE SO MUCH EASIER TO EMBRACE THIS FANTASY INSTEAD?!


OUI, C'EST TRÈS FACILE.
SHAN
BE STRONG
BE BRAVE
KARMA
FIGHT
RESIST
YOU CAN DO IT
IF ONLY YOU TRY!
WHAT POINT IS THERE IN TRYING WHEN THE ATTEMPT IS SURELY DOOMED?
LOOK AT YOURSELF, KARMA--HOW CAN YOU FIGHT...
...WHEN YOU CANNOT EVEN STAND?
I...CAN, MONSTER--
--AND--
--I--
--WILL!
MES AMIS--MY FELLOW MUTANTS--NEVER GAVE UP...
...AND NOR SHALL I!
WERE I AS WEAK AS YOU SAY, I WOULD HAVE DIED WITH MY PARENTS WHEN WE FLED VIETNAM. I WOULD HAVE LET MY EVIL BROTHER, TRANH, CONSUME AND DESTROY ME!
BUT I DID NOT!
YOU ARE THE COWARD, FAROUK--YOU, THE SKULKER IN SHADOWS, WHO DELIGHTS IN HARMING THOSE WEAKER THAN YOURSELF...
...WHO BOASTS OF YOUR OWN SUPERIORITY...
...TO MASK THE FACT THAT YOU ARE--AND WILL ALWAYS REMAIN--LESS THAN HUMAN!
I HAVE YOU, FIEND! AND I SHALL HOLD YOU UNTIL PROFESSOR XAVIER--SACRE MERE!?!


HE FLED--
--BACK TO THE ASTRAL PLANE, WHERE I CANNOT FOLLOW.
THAT MEANS HE CAN FIND ME AGAIN...
...TAKE ME UNAWARES.
I WILL NOT BE HIS SLAVE--BETTER DEATH THAN SUCH A FATE.
GO, MY FRIENDS.
LET THE FLAMES CLAIM ME.
THE HECK WE WILL!
YOU GOT SOME NERVE THINKING THAT, LADY! WHERE'S THE COURAGE YOU SHOWED A MINUTE AGO?!
I AM AN OBSCENITY. I CANNOT BEAR--!
YOU GOT TO, SHAN! AH'M SORRY, BUT IF YOU GIVE UP, YOU'LL BE GIVIN' FAROUK A TRIUMPH HE DIDN'T EARN AN' DON'T DESERVE!
YOU AIN'T GOT THAT RIGHT.
SHAN, WE--AND ESPECIALLY YOU--FOUND A WAY TO BEAT THAT SON OF A SNAKE, SO WE'LL FIND A WAY TO PUT YOU RIGHT AS WELL!
YOU CANNA GIVE UP, SHAN. PLEASE, PLEASE TRY!
I... I WILL.
HATE TO BE A PARTY POOPER BUT IT'S GETTING AWFULLY WARM IN HERE. CAN WE MAYBE CONTINUE THIS...
...SOMEWHERE ELSE--
--OH! THANKS, ILLYANA!
ANYTIME, DOUGLAS.
THAT'S SOME FIRE--TOO BAD FAROUK ISN'T BURNING ALONG WITH HIS CLUB.
HE'LL TURN UP AGAIN, DANI. AN' WHEN WE FIND HIM--!
WHERE TO, ORORO--HOME?
NO, SAM--NOT QUITE YET.
YOU HAVE ALL EARNED A REST, AND I KNOW THE PERFECT PLACE. AN ISLAND IN THE AEGEAN, CALLED KIRINOS. THERE, FOR A TIME, YOU CAN BE HAPPY.

TO BE CONTINUED-- SORT OF-- IN ***NEW MUTANTS SPECIAL EDITION #1:***

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS!

MEANWHILE, ***NEXT ISSUE,*** *BACK AT THE MANSION--*

THE TIMES THEY ARE A'CHANGIN'!